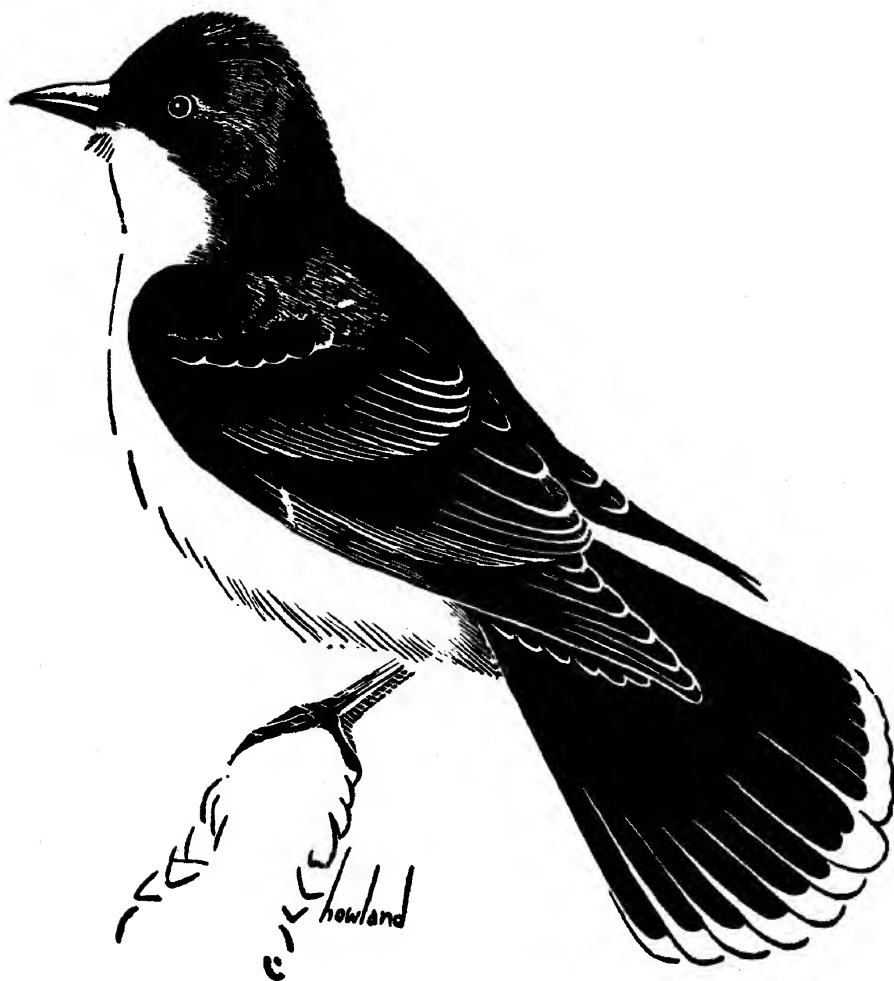


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# The KINGBIRD



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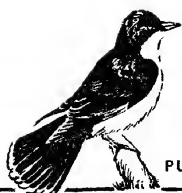
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# *The* KINGBIRD

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*Highlights of the Summer Season*

*Guest Editor* — Robert Spahn

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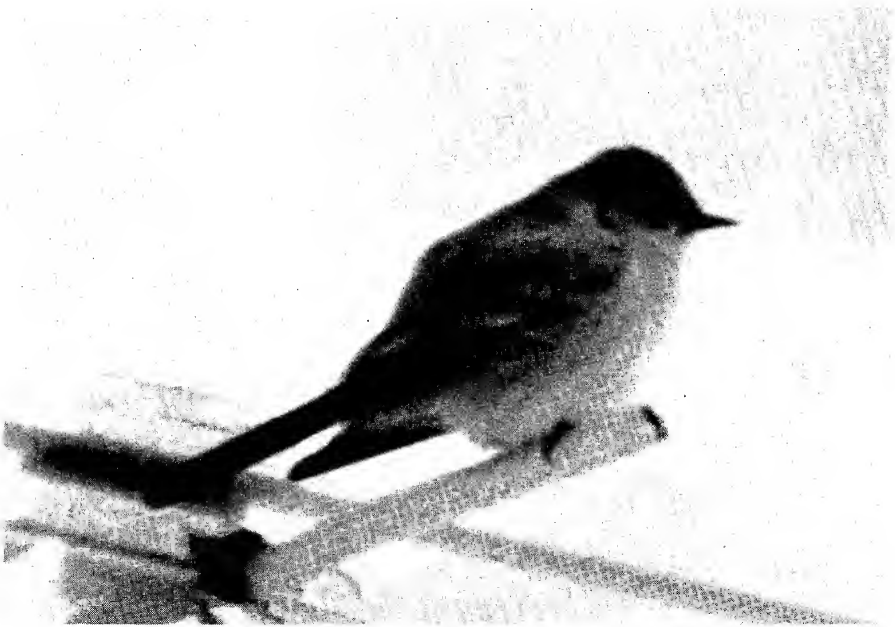
*Cover Design* — Douglas L. Howland

### LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Letters may be of a general nature as long as they pertain to New York State ornithology, or may be of a specific nature with reference to something that has appeared in *The Kingbird*. The editors reserve the right *not* to accept a letter for publication, or to edit a letter in accordance with space requirements. All letters received will be acknowledged. Your participation is invited.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES  
43. SAY'S PHOEBE

DOROTHY W. CRUMB



*Say's Phoebe – Marcellus, Onondaga County*  
*November 1981* *Dorothy Crumb*

The normal range of Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) is west of the Mississippi River from Alaska to Mexico. On 8 November 1981, John Weeks discovered a Say's Phoebe catching flies at a renovated farm house which had recently become the headquarters for Centers for Nature Education in Marcellus, Onondaga Co. The house had been unheated for some time and the new warmth caused the hatching of large numbers of Buckwheat or Cluster Flies (*Pollenia rudis*). The phoebe was very adept at catching the flies in midair, or probing for them at edges of shingles.

The Say's Phoebe roosted in the open barn or one of the out-buildings on the property. It could be seen or heard early in the

morning or late afternoon. During the day it wandered throughout the farming community, visiting various fields and farms for other food. Some days it stayed on the nature center property.

On 18 December 1981 the phoebe flew into the house through an open door and fed on Buckwheat Flies inside the building. It was found dead the next day and, according to John Bull, apparently died of starvation in our cold northern winter. The specimen is now at the American Museum of Natural History, AMNH 824924.

There are two previous specimens of Say's Phoebe from New York State:

(1) Male collected at Montauk, Suffolk Co. 9 October 1933 (Latham), NYSM 25522. (Bull, 1974).

(2) A bird that died soon after being found near Ithaca, Tompkins Co. 13 December 1977. The specimen was deposited in the Cornell University Museum, but cannot be located at this writing (McIlroy, 1978).

There are three Long Island observations and one from Monroe Co. believed correct (Bull, 1974):

(1) Dyker Beach, Kings Co., 25-28 September 1926 (W. Eaton and Nathan);

(2) Gilgo Beach, Suffolk Co., 16 September 1958 (Buckley and Restivo);

(3) Greece, Monroe Co., 13-19 December 1959 (Listman and Lloyd);

(4) Point O'Woods, Fire Island, Suffolk Co., 12 October 1969 (S. Hopkins).

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## STATUS OF COLONIAL WATERBIRDS NESTING ON LITTLE GALLOO ISLAND, LAKE ONTARIO

H. BLOKPOEL and D. V. WESELOH

Little Galloo Island, located in eastern Lake Ontario, off Sackets Harbor, Jefferson County, has attracted ornithological attention because of an enormous increase in its population of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) (Belknap 1968) and, more recently, the presence of nesting Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) (Chamberlaine 1978).

The Ring-billed Gulls are known to have nested on Little Galloo Island as early as 1938 (Bull 1974). Estimates of their population in 1966 ranged from 75,000 - 85,000 nests (Ludwig 1974) to 100,000 - 120,000 nests (Gordon 1966) and in 1967 their numbers were estimated at 82,000 pairs (Ludwig 1974) and 85,000 pairs (Belknap 1968). Since then the colony has greatly declined or merely leveled off, depending on whose figures are correct. According to Scharf *et al.* (1978) there were more than 30,000 pairs in 1976 and 27,308 pairs in 1977, but Chamberlaine (1978) reported 77,000 nests for 1978. If the last figure is correct, Little Galloo Island would probably still be the largest Ring-billed Gull colony in North America (Belknap, 1968), but if the population was 27,000 pairs, the colonies at the Eastern Headland of the Toronto Outer Harbor, Lake Ontario, would be larger (Blokpoel, 1977 and unpublished data).

One of us (DVW) had visited Little Galloo Island for studies of Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) reproduction during 1979 and 1980. As those studies were to be continued in 1981, we decided that we would attempt to census all nests in the spring of that year in order to arrive at reliable numbers of nesting birds. Our census involved all colonial waterbird species nesting on the island, *i.e.* Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, Cattle Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*). This paper presents and discusses those census figures.

### STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Belknap (1968) described the islands as follows: "Little Galloo Island, about 43 acres in extent, lies near the eastern end of Lake Ontario some 5½ miles from the mainland. Roughly oval, it is three-sevenths of a mile in the longer dimension. The island is composed of rock with a thin covering of soil. Grass and weeds constitute much of the vegetation. The number of trees is limited and these are mainly



around the perimeter. The interior resembles a level, grassy meadow." This description is valid for 1981.

To census the gull nests we divided the island in halves by stretching a yellow rope across the island along its long (NE-SW) axis. These halves were further divided into strips using colored plastic tapes. We slowly walked down the strips counting all nests with eggs and/or chicks, using hand-counters. We reduced the width of the strips as nest density increased to maintain accuracy of counting.

The main census took place on 11 and 12 May 1981 and involved three teams each consisting of two men. In addition, one of us (D.V.W.) made brief visits on 23 April, 7 May, 27 May, 9 June, and 24 July as part of his studies of Herring Gull reproduction.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are shown in Table 1, which also gives a summary of previous efforts to estimate the size of the colonies.

#### Ring-billed Gull

We counted 73,780 nests in 1981. Our count is in close agreement with the estimate of 77,000 nests for 1978, and much higher than the estimates for 1976 and 1977, which were presumably too low (see Table 1). As the entire island has been virtually covered by nesting Ring-bills since 1967, we suggest that the nesting population has been more or less stable for the last 14 years. We expect that the Little Galloo population will remain stable because (1) virtually all available habitat is already occupied, and (2) it is unlikely that the density of nests will increase. Instead we predict that colonies in the vicinity of Little Galloo Island will continue to grow rapidly and that new colonies will be established wherever conditions are favorable. In fact, this appears to have happened in recent years. The new colony at High Bluff Island in Presqu'île Provincial Park has increased from 679 nests in 1979 (R. D. McRae, pers. comm.) to an estimated 10,000-15,000 pairs in 1981 (G. A. Fox, pers. comm.). In 1981 Ring-bills were nesting in small numbers at four "new" sites in Lake Ontario near Kingston: (1) Nut Island off the south shore of Amherst Island (about 300 nests on 26 May), (2) Salmon Island off Kingston (about 200 nests on 26 May), (3) West Brothers Island near Collin's Bay (three nests on 26 May) and (4) a small island off the north end of Horseshoe Island (three nests on 26 May) (Weir, 1981). Farther west in Lake Ontario, the colony at the Eastern Headland of the Toronto Outer Harbor has increased from 21 nests in 1973 to 67,000 nest ins1980 (census) and to 70,000-75,000 nests in 1981 (estimate).



We did not count the nests of Ring-bills at the Eastern Headland in 1981, but estimated the size of that population based on a census in 1980, the nest density in several test plots in 1980 and 1981, and the expanse of their nesting areas in 1980 and 1981. Our estimate of 70,000-75,000 nests in 1981 makes it uncertain whether Little Galloo Island or the Eastern Headland is now the largest Ring-billed Gull colony in North America.

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

First reported breeding at Little Galloo in 1967, this species has now become the second most numerous nesting species there, with 461 nests counted in 1981 (Table 1).

In contrast to most cormorants on the Great Lakes, those at Little Galloo nest in trees. In 1976 and 1977 there were 76 and 96 cormorant nests, respectively. They were confined to four clumps of trees in the southern portion of the island (Scharf *et al.* 1978, Fig. 23a and b). This situation persisted through 1978. During the period 1979-1981 the cormorants occupied an increasing number of trees (Weseloh, unpublished data). In 1980, 264 nests were distributed in 24 trees primarily on the west, south, and east shores of the island. Twelve additional nests were located on the ground, in the southwest sector, late in the season in August. In 1981, the cormorants began nesting in trees on the north and northwest shores of the islands. In that year 455 nests were distributed in 32 trees of seven kinds: elm (10), oak (8), ash (7), hackberry (4), willow (1), basswood (1), and shagbark hickory (1); six additional nests were on the ground. Twelve of the trees were dead (five elm and seven oak). As the birds continue to nest, presumably the other trees will also die. Leaves and branches have been stripped from several of the living trees and much guano deposition was also evident on the leaves.

The increase in cormorant numbers at Little Galloo Island roughly parallels the increase that has occurred on other Lake Ontario and Great Lakes colonies. For example, from 1973 to 1981 the cormorant population in the Canadian waters of Lake Ontario and the Great Lakes increased from three nests to 180 nests and from 139+ nests to 970 nests, respectively (Weseloh, unpublished data). During that same period the number of colonies on the Canadian Great Lakes has increased from 11 to 21. The colony on Pigeon Island (21 km north of Little Galloo) has quadrupled in the last three years (Weseloh, unpublished data).

If cormorants on Little Galloo Island exploit the available ground nesting sites as they have the tree sites, there is room for growth for

many more years. However, at present, with nearly all trees on the island harboring at least one cormorant nest and only a total of 18 nests on the ground in the last two years, it does not appear that such exploitation is yet occurring. If the cormorants do not utilize ground sites any more than they have, it is unlikely that the colony will expand much beyond 600-650 tree nests.

### **Herring Gull**

As Table 1 shows, Herring Gull numbers have steadily increased from "not more than 50 pairs" in 1955 to 350 nests in 1981.

In 1981 the distribution of Herring Gull nests was still as depicted by Scharf *et al.* (1978) for 1976 and 1977. The birds nested contiguously and most densely from the center of the island to the southern shore. All nests were on the ground.

From 1976 to 1981 the Herring Gull population on six older, long-established colonies on Lake Ontario increased from approximately 309 to 452 nests, or approximately 11% annually on average (Weseloh, unpublished data). The Little Galloo figures show an increase from 200 pairs in 1977 to 350 in 1981 (on average about 19% per year). Reproductive success in two fenced enclosures in the center of the island in 1981 was 2.43 young/pair. This is the highest success we have encountered in four years of monitoring on the Great Lakes (Weseloh *et al.*, 1979; Weseloh, unpublished data). It would appear that Herring Gulls are reproducing very well and increasing.

### **Black-crowned Night Heron**

This species has nested at Little Galloo Island since 1950 when 11 nests were reported (Table 1). The colony increased to 121 nests (counted) in 1977 and has since declined to 96 nests (counted) in 1981. In 1981 all nests were in low bushes, often red-osier dogwood of one to two meters height, on the south and southwest side of the island.

Black-crowned Night Herons appear to be increasing on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario. In recent years the species has begun to nest at Hamilton Harbor, the Toronto Outer Harbor and High Bluff Island (Blokpoel, unpublished data; R. D. McRae, pers. comm.).

### **Cattle Egret**

In 1977 the first two nests were reported and by 1981 five pairs were observed nesting (Table 1). In 1981 the nests were located in willows at heights ranging from one to two meters on the southwest side of the island. The egrets were nesting in close proximity to both the night herons and the cormorants.

In 1981 four nests were first observed on 27 May; two contained four eggs each and two held single eggs. Seven adult Cattle Egrets were also observed on that date. On 9 June three nests held 13 eggs and the fourth had two eggs and two chicks. Assuming an incubation period of 23 days and a two-day interval between the laying of the first and second egg (Palmer 1962), the first egg was laid on or before 14 May. On 24 July a fifth nest with six eggs was found in the same location as the previous four nests. Young egrets were noted climbing among the willow branches on this visit.

The Cattle Egret, a relatively recent immigrant to North America, appears to be extending its breeding range northward. On Lake Ontario the species has nested at Gull Island, Presqu'ile Provincial Park (one nest in 1962, Woodward, 1962; one nest in 1965, Goodwin, 1965; present in 1966, Goodwin, 1966) and at Pigeon Island (single nests in 1969, Goodwin 1969; in 1972, Goodwin and Rosche, 1972; in 1977, Goodwin, 1977; two nests in 1968, Goodwin 1968; and in 1978, Goodwin, 1978; but no nests in 1979-1981, Weseloh, unpublished data). It will be interesting to monitor any further development of the Cattle Egret colony at Little Galloo Island, which is probably at the northern edge of the species' present breeding range in eastern North America.

### **Great Black-backed Gull**

This species had not been reported to nest at Little Galloo Island prior to 1981 and we therefore document its nesting in greater detail. On 23 April, after observing two adult Great Black-backed Gulls on the colony, DVW and S. M. Teeple located a nest with three eggs on the northwest side of the island. Although the nest was situated in a grassy area in the midst of densely nesting Ring-billed Gulls, its immediate vicinity (*i.e.* within a radius of four to five meters) was devoid of Ring-bill nests. On 7 May, when Herring Gulls eggs were just beginning to hatch, and again on 11 and 12 May, there were still three eggs in the nest. On the latter visit however, three additional Great Black-backed Gull nests were suspected on a cobblestone beach ridge on the extreme west shore of the island. Owing to the size variation in Herring Gull eggs and our own lack of familiarity with the eggs of Great Black-backed Gulls, we were unable to identify the nests with certainty. On 27 May we observed adult Great Black-backed Gulls incubating all three of the nests on the beach ridge. The nests contained one, two and three eggs, respectively; the single egg was rotten. On this date, the first Great Black-backed Gull nest (among the Ring-billed Gulls) held two mobile downy young. On 9

June, the single-egg clutch had disappeared but the adults were still in attendance, the three-egg clutch was intact, and the two-egg nest held one young and one pipping egg. On our last visit of the season, on 27 July, all the nests were empty and although we were unable to locate any of the young, we concluded that at least one and probably three of the four Great Black-backed Gull pairs had fledged young.

During our visits we measured a total of seven Great Black-backed Gull eggs (two three-egg clutches and the pipping egg). The mean dimensions ( $\pm$  S.D.) were  $78.1 \pm 2.34 \times 51.3 \pm 1.03$  mm. These agree closely with average measurements given by Bent (1963) of  $77.9 \times 54.2$  mm.

A recent review of the status of this species in the Great Lakes area (Angehrn *et al.*, 1979) mentioned only ten records of single nests: one in Lake Huron in 1954 and nine in Lake Ontario (Gull Island—1962, 1963 and 1970 and Pigeon Island—1971, 1972, 1976 through 1979). Thus the presence of four nests in one season at Little Galloo is highly unusual. The Great Black-backed Gull also nested for the first time in 1981 at the Eastern Headland (Blokpoel, unpubl. data). Because the Black-back is highly predatory, it is important to keep track of any further penetration into the Great Lakes by this essentially maritime species.

#### THE ORNITHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF LITTLE GALLOO ISLAND

Another species of colonial waterbird, the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), once flourished on Little Galloo Island. Kutz (1946) observed Common Tern nests during his visit in 1945 and Baillie (1952) reported at least 500 pairs in 1952. Belknap (1968) reported that the tern colony flourished in the early 1950s, but that it was "gradually wiped out by competition from the Ring-billed Gulls." This competition was presumably for nesting space because the Ring-bill had occupied the entire island except for the Herring Gull colony.

Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls can easily defend their territories against encroaching Ring-billed Gulls because they are bigger. It seems unlikely that any increase in numbers of the two larger gull species will be affected by the teeming numbers of Ring-bills. The cormorants, night herons and Cattle Egrets are not in competition with the Ring-bills because they nest in trees. Because of their larger size the cormorants can probably compete successfully with Ring-bills for nest sites on the ground.

Six species of colonial waterbirds nested at Little Galloo Island in 1981. Although reproductive success was properly assessed only for



the Herring Gulls, which reproduced very well, casual observations indicated that all other species raised fledglings as well.

Little Galloo Island is important as a nesting area both in terms of species variety and numbers. Efforts should be made to preserve the island as a nesting site of major importance.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Bill Smith and the Phillips Petroleum Company for their permission to visit Little Galloo Island. We are grateful to S. Brown and K. Karwowski for their help with the census. Thanks also are due to W. H. C. Lee, S. M. Teeple, and G. D. Tessier who helped with transportation and the field work. Finally, we acknowledge the comments on an earlier draft by S. G. Curtis and T. C. Dauphiné.

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Table 1. Results of the 1981 census of colonial waterbirds nesting at Little Galloo Island, and published numbers of colony sizes for earlier years.

Year	Method	Ring-billed Gull	Double-crested Cormorant	Herring Gull	Black-crowned Night Heron	Cattle Egret	Great Black-backed Gull	Reference
1938		"nesting"						Bull (1974)
1945	estimate	± 1800 breeding birds		±200 breeding birds				Kutz (1946)
1950	estimate	19,200 nests <sup>1</sup>						Belknap (1950)
1951	nest census				11 nests			Belknap (unpub. data)
1955	estimate	45,000 nests		no more than 50 pairs				Belknap (1961)
1961	estimate	63,000 nests			at least 50 nests with contents			Belknap (1961)
1963	estimate	75,000 nests			80 nests			Clinch (1963)
1965	estimate	85,000 nests		100 nests	75 nests			Clinch (1965)
1966	estimate	100-120,000 pairs		100 pairs	nesting			Gordon (1966)
1966	estimate	75-85,000 nests						Ludwig (1974)
1967	estimate	85,000 nests			over 75 pairs			Belknap (1968)
1967	estimate	82,000 nests						Ludwig (1974)
1974	nest census		22 nests		25 nests			G. A. Smith, pers. comm.
1975	nest census		28 nests		29 nests			Chamberlaine (1975)
1976	nest census		68 nests		60 nests			Chamberlaine (1976)
1976	air survey	30,000 nests		200 nests				Scharf <i>et al.</i> (1978)
1976	nest census		76 nests		121 nests			Scharf <i>et al.</i> (1978)
1977	nest census		130 nests		121 nests			G. A. Smith, pers. comm.
1977	air survey	27,308 nests		200 pairs				Scharf <i>et al.</i> (1978)
1977	nest census		96 nests		130 nests	2 nests		Scharf <i>et al.</i> (1978)
1978	estimate	77,000 nests						Chamberlaine (1978)
1978	nest census		192 nests	93 nests	77 nests	3 nests		Chamberlaine (1978)
1980	nest census		264 nests					D. V. Weseloh (unpub. data)
1981	nest census	73,780 nests <sup>2</sup>	461 nests <sup>3</sup>	350 nests <sup>2</sup>	96 nests <sup>2</sup>	5 nests <sup>4</sup>	4 nests <sup>4</sup>	this report

<sup>1</sup> includes Herring Gull nests (less than 5%)<sup>2</sup> 11 and 12 May 1981<sup>3</sup> 24 July 1981<sup>4</sup> whole season

## I REMEMBER GENE

WINSTON WILLIAM BROCKNER

It was with a sudden empty feeling in my stomach that I received news of the passing of Eugene Eisenmann on 13 October 1981. I first met this interesting man at the organization meeting of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs on the weekend of 25-27 October 1947 in Amsterdam, New York. We struck if off well from the very beginning and we became good friends over the years. Annually we would huddle at Federation meetings, and each one of us looked for the other at the stated meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union. Of course, our first concerns and discussions pertained to the Federation. Gene was as intensely interested in the Federation as I was. His attendance and joining at the Amsterdam meeting bestowed upon him Charter Membership. At that time he was one of the delegates from the prestigious Linnaean Society in New York City. Being a lawyer, Gene was welcomed with open arms and he reciprocated by offering very valuable assistance in the drafting of our Constitution. From the organization meeting on, Gene constantly gave of himself freely to supporting and abetting the Federation in every possible way.

At the first annual meeting in Rochester, Gene and I were together on the field trip to the Lake Ontario shore. At Braddock's Bay, Gene suddenly spied a grebe a short distance out on the water. He quickly identified it as an Eared Grebe—the first record for western New York. This instantly taught me how sharp Gene was in the field. This was to be verified many times over in subsequent years.

In 1949, Gene chaired the Nominating Committee and the Constitution Revision Committee of the Federation. The improvements made in the Constitution were due to Gene's legal background and good judgment.

I was President in 1950 and 1951, and Gene was my Vice-President. Correspondence flowed back and forth between the two of us, much pertaining to conservation matters, an area in which Gene was very interested.

I was happy to receive a letter from Gene on 11 December 1950, with a most welcome P.S.: "I have just received a copy of 'The Kingbird.' I am writing to the editor to congratulate him on an excellent job." I, and others, had inveigled Allen Klonick into being the

first Editor of this new Federation undertaking. To receive such an approval from erudite Gene was sweet music to my ears.

Earlier in 1950, the pole-trap battle was on in Albany. Gene quietly and efficiently guided us through the mine fields of political ramifications and kept us on target, and progress was made in mitigating pole-trap problems.

Being a new organization, many requests were made of us. Many were requests for affiliation with other organizations and movements. As appealing and worthy as many of these were, Gene supported me in going slow on outside affiliations. In a letter to me on 5 September 1951, he cautioned: "Formal affiliation with other organizations, even worthy ones, seems to be something deserving consideration by the Council as a body, unless there is some special urgency." Subsequent events proved the soundness of this advice.

In 1952, Gene succeeded me as President. In response to a letter of congratulations, Gene on 2 January 1952 fired back: "Thanks again for your help, which I expect to draw upon from time to time. The work you and Gordon Meade have done in organizing the Federation and putting it on an even keel makes manning the vessel not too difficult. Let's hope we can have clear sailing ahead."

Gene's term as President was ably and competently handled. His administrative talent coped with all problems and the Federation prospered.

In 1955, Gene continued his Federation interest by serving on the Conservation Committee. In this capacity he contributed outstandingly.

I could go on, but I think these few excerpts indicate the sincere interest and contributions of Eugene Eisenmann, for and to the Federation. More than that though, I relived again the times with Gene. He was an outstanding individual, remarkable in many respects. The Federation has lost a very valuable member and true friend. We all will miss him, the world of ornithology will miss him too. I also miss him; I shall always remember Gene!

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# A STUDY OF THE FEEDING OF YOUNG COMMON TERNS AT ONE SITE IN ONEIDA LAKE DURING 1980

LAURIE MILLER and JOHN CONFER

The availability of food often limits the reproduction of birds. Food supply can affect the number of eggs laid and/or the percentage of nestlings that fledge (Lack, 1954, 1968; Ashmole, 1963). Since the abundance of food may vary during the nesting season, the exact time of nesting could affect reproductive success. In this study we looked at the rate of feeding of young by Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) throughout the nesting season 1980 at Oneida Lake. We observed nests that were started early, in the middle and late in the nesting season. We measured the frequency of feeding and the size of prey that the adults brought to chicks of different age. Results for 1980 show that the size of prey and frequency of visits did change during the nesting season. These results suggest that terns nesting in the middle of the 1980 nesting season had better feeding conditions. To establish the reliability and significance of our observations would require further studies in other years.

## METHODS

Our study was conducted on Long Island (76° 00' N, 43° 13' W), one of several small islands located in Oneida Lake. The Common Terns nested on three separate areas of the island: at both ends and near the center portion. All our observations were made at the center colony, which covered 56 square meters.

Observations were made from a blind placed at the edge of the colony. Only one nest was watched during each 45-minute observation period. The size of the fish presented to the chick was estimated against the bill size of the adult for each feeding trip. Observations made over the length of the summer were divided into three periods. During Period I (14 June-19 June), observations were made randomly on five of these six days. During Period II (24 June-8 July), we made observations on eleven days and during Period III (13 July-26 July), we made observations on nine days. Observations during Periods II and III were made according to a predetermined rotation schedule to ensure that chicks of all ages would be observed during all hours of the day. The rotation pattern consisted of a day with a morning set of observations (6 AM - 11 AM) followed by a day of late afternoon observations (4 PM - 8 PM), followed by a day of early after-



noon observations (11 AM - 4 PM). Each set of observations was divided into four or five 45-minute periods separated by a break of 10 to 15 minutes. The chicks' ages were classified into three categories: just hatched to 3 days old, 4 to 7 days old, and 8 to 28 days old. Whenever possible, each age category was observed with equal frequency on each day and especially within the timespan of a period. Nests were flagged, numbered, and checked daily for new eggs, pipped eggs, and chicks. All chicks were banded within several days of hatching. By regular observation, it was evident that a particular chick belonged to a corresponding nest. Feeding occurred consistently at the nest or within several feet of it. The colony consisted of chicks of a wide range of ages, so chicks could be distinguished by size and individual markings.

## RESULTS

### Frequency of Feeding Throughout the Summer

From 24 June to 26 July 1980 the adults averaged 1.6 feeding trips per hour. The averages for the three periods of the breeding season were 2.1, 1.5 and 1.6 trips per hour from early to late in the season. The number of trips during a 45-minute observation period was highly variable, ranging from none (frequently) to as many as seven (once). The small differences in trips per hour for the three periods likely resulted from random variation. Since the method used to collect the data during Period I differed from the method used during Periods II and III, it is not appropriate to combine the data to test for a statistical difference.

### Frequency of Feeding During the Day

Observations were made with equal frequency for all hours from 6 AM to 8 PM. Over the entire summer the number of trips per hour for the morning, early afternoon and late afternoon were 1.6, 1.4, and 1.6 respectively. Additionally, we were in the blind past sunset or before sunrise on a few occasions. There was no apparent difference in feeding rates during these extreme times compared to our routine times. Initially we thought that the adult terns might make more frequent trips just after sunrise, since the chicks would have fasted throughout the night, but our data show the same rate of feeding throughout the day.

### Prey Length

Table I shows the length of prey items brought to chicks. For Periods I, II, and III the mean lengths were 4.6, 4.8 and 4.4 cm respectively, combining data for chicks of all ages. These results show



that the average size of prey brought to chicks during 1980 did not vary much throughout the breeding season. However, the range of prey sizes decreases dramatically from Periods II and III.<sup>1</sup> For example, for Period II 41% of the prey were between 4 to 6 cm, compared to 78% for Period III.

The paucity of small prey during Period III compared to II is likely due to the growth of fish hatched in that year. For example, young Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*) constitute a significant portion of the chicks' diet,  $\bar{m}$  27% of identified prey in 1980. The mean length of young perch caught in seine samples near areas where the terns foraged during Period II was 3.3 cm and by Period III was 4.5 cm. Other prey species also grew during this season just as the perch did. We do not know why the terns captured fewer large prey during Period III than they did earlier in the season, during Period II. Perhaps the larger fish moved into deeper water as many of the larger Yellow Perch do (Forney, 1971).

#### Age of Chicks vs. Prey Size and Frequency of Feeding

Table 2 shows the length of prey items brought to chicks of the three age categories. During Period II small chicks were fed more small prey while large chicks were fed more large prey.<sup>2</sup> In contrast, during Period III there was no statistical difference in the proportion of large to small prey brought to chicks of different age.

The amount of food returned to a chick is determined by both the size of prey and the frequency of visits. Table 3 shows the frequency of visits for the three age categories of chicks. During Period II, older chicks on average were fed once for every two observation periods, while younger chicks on average were fed 1.6 times for each observation period. Thus, during Period II older chicks were fed less frequently than younger chicks.<sup>3</sup> In contrast, during Period III, when all ages of chicks were fed prey of the same size, the feeding rates for all ages showed no statistical difference.

- <sup>1</sup> The Chi-square contingency value obtained by combining observations for prey of 7 to 11 cm length equals 15.52 with 4 degrees of freedom which has a less than 1% chance of resulting from random variation. See Table 1.
- <sup>2</sup> The Chi-square contingency value equals 14.56 with 2 degrees of freedom and has less than a 1% chance of resulting from random variation. See Table 2.
- <sup>3</sup> The Chi-square goodness of fit value assuming equal frequency of visits to each age category is 14.80 which has less than a 1% chance of resulting from random variation. See Table 3.

Table 1. Length of prey brought to chicks during the three periods of the breeding season; n is the number of times a prey of a given length was observed.

Prey Length (cm)	Period I		Period II		Period III	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
2-3	7	32	14	36	6	17
4	6	27	9	23	18	50
5	2	9	5	13	5	14
6	4	18	2	5	6	17
7	2	9	3	8	0	0
8-11	<u>1</u>	5	<u>6</u>	15	<u>1</u>	5
mean	4.6		4.8		4.4	

Table 2. The length of prey brought to chicks of different age during Period II and Period III; n is the number of times prey of a given length was observed.

Period II	Chick Age (days)		
	1-3	4-7	8-28
Prey Length (cm)	(n)	(n)	(n)
2-4	10	10	3
5-11	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
mean	3.6	4.6	6.7
Period III			
Prey Length (cm)			
2-4	4	5	15
5-11	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
mean	4.7	4.8	4.3

Table 3. The frequency of feeding for 3 age categories of chicks during Period II and Period III.

Period II	Chick Age (days)		
	1-3	4-7	8-28
	(n)	(n)	(n)
Number of feeding trips	11	18	10
Number of observation periods	7	9	20
Period III			
	(n)	(n)	(n)
Number of feeding trips	6	9	21
Number of observation periods	8	10	19

## DISCUSSION

There are two reasons to suspect that in 1980 the food supply during Period II was better than during Period III. It is probably advantageous to bring small prey to small chicks. On several occasions we observed that the very young chicks attempted but did not or could not eat some larger prey items brought by the adults. The time between feeding trips in 1980 was highly variable but averaged 40 minutes. A chick of a three-chick nest would be fed on average about every two hours, and if it missed a feeding trip because the prey was too large, it might be four hours between feedings. With bad weather, or for the youngest or least aggressive chick of a three-chick nest, a missed feeding could contribute to their higher death rate (Langham, 1972). In this event, the scarcity of small prey during Period III would be detrimental).

Furthermore, an advantage may result when adults are able to bring back larger prey for older chicks. The weight of young fish increases approximately in proportion to the cube of their length. Weights of some of the prey fish could be estimated when the species of fish was recognized. Very tentative calculations suggest that during Period II older chicks received a greater total weight of prey than younger chicks, despite the fact that the adults made trips less frequently.

Our data suggest two remarkable adaptations of adult terns in selecting prey. Small prey are selected for small chicks when small prey are available. On the other hand, the adults sometimes select larger prey for the older chicks, thus reducing the number of trips necessary to supply the same or more food to older chicks, and probably conserving adult effort.

Our results during 1980 may show the adaptations of terns to relatively poor feeding conditions. In Oneida Lake young Yellow Perch are usually very abundant, such that the weight of young perch is usually greater than the summed weight of all other young fish (Forney, 1974). However, in 1980 young perch abundance was the 6th lowest in 21 years of study (Forney, pers. comm.). Even during this relatively poor year young perch were still a significant portion of the chicks' diet. It would be interesting to compare our results to the feeding of chicks during normal years when the young perch might be two to five times more numerous.

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## MINUTES OF THE 34TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs convened at 2 p.m. Friday, 25 September 1981, at the 10th floor Ballroom of the Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, NY, Martin Borko presiding. Roll call was taken. Twenty-nine clubs were represented. A quorum was declared. The membership report was given by Myrna Hemmerick as filed. There is a total of 665 members. Accepted as presented. It was suggested that the Mountain Bird Club be contacted to join. The treasurer's report was circulated by John Forness. He pointed out the donation of stock by Joe Taylor, amounting to a little under \$3,000, is earmarked for the Atlas project. Report accepted as filed. John Forness announced that the books had been audited and found to be in good order by Irving Cantor and Don Clarke. Manny Levine reported the approval of the Executive Committee for expenditures for a 1971-80 *Kingbird Index*. This has been compiled by Dorothy McIlroy and will be coming out soon. The waterfowl census report was given by Walton Sabin who reported 170,833 birds counted in 1981, 28.6% below 1980. 1982 dates will be 9 through 17 January, target day 10 January. Susan Drennan announced that *Where to Find Birds in New York State* is now finished and will be available very shortly. Martin Borko asked clubs to send membership lists to Syracuse University Press to be used in soliciting sales. Connie Wilkins reported that 865 copies of *The Kingbird* are sent out. Report accepted and filed. The president's report given by Martin Borko was accepted as attached. The nominating committee report was presented by Steve Dempsey. The following officers were unanimously elected: President—Morgan Jones; Vice-President—Charles Smith; Recording Secretary—Anne Clarridge; Corresponding Secretary—Constance Wilkins; Treasurer—John Forness. Morgan Jones then assumed chairmanship of meeting which adjourned to reconvene Saturday, 26 September, 9:30 a.m., same place.

Allen H. Benton announced that a full bibliography report has been printed in the most recent *Kingbird*. Charles Smith reported on his attendance at the fall meeting of the New York State Conservation Council in Watertown. This was an intensive, three-day meeting. Charles Smith finds the group the strongest lobbying group of its kind in the state, considers that there are many overlapping areas of interest with FNYNSBC (acid rain, throw-away bottle control) and recommends that the FNYNSBC continue its affiliation with them, keeping more aware of their activities and working through them when possible. Steve Dempsey circulated a report of the year's pelagic trips. Accepted. The next trip will be 28 November 1981. It was recommended that next year's early summer trip take place in late May. Gene McCaffery of the DEC discussed the problems the nongame program faces in view of the disappearance of grant and aid funds for endangered species. The Atlas program is among the highest priority programs and will not be touched. NYS Bald Eagle Program will be continued out of special federal funds. He urged the Federation to move strongly with other nongame interest groups to support the nongame tax checkoff as it appears now in the Eckert Bill. Paul DeBenedictis, chairman of NYSARC, reported on two meetings of NYSARC, 16 August and 22 August. Tom Davis has been reappointed to the committee. All reports are now being acknowledged upon receipt. Cataloguing is now by year of receipt, not year of observation. All records from previous years are resolved. In 1980 there were 78 reports. Currently NYSARC recognizes 423 species as having been recorded in New York. Gordon Meade, chairman of the Atlas effort, thanked the over 1,000 volunteers and especially the regional coordinators, R. Andrie, R. Spahn, D. McIlroy, J. Lehman, D. Crumb, R. & J. Walker, Mike Peterson, R. Guthrie, B. Weissman and G. Raynor. He also stressed the enormous support DEC is giving the program. DEC and FNYNSBC are working out an agreement as to which group is responsible for what activities, who will own the data and other similar questions. Three newsletters a year are going out. A nominating committee for officers for 1982, consisting of Martin Borko, Mary Ann Sunderlin and Alice Jones, was



duly elected. An auditing committee of Richard Sloss and Steve Dempsey was duly elected. They have authority to contact a CPA of their choice for review. Morgan Jones appointed Liz Martinec as resolution chairman for the meeting and the banquet.

#### RESOLUTIONS

The following three resolutions were presented, discussed and unanimously passed:

1. **FEDERATION SUPPORT OF BILL TO INCREASE HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES AND TO PROVIDE FOR A STATE INCOME TAX CHECKOFF SYSTEM TO INCREASE THE STATE CONSERVATION FUND (S.6023B by Sen. Eckert)**

Whereas, the primary source of revenue for the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Fish and Wildlife programs is the Conservation Fund, composed mostly of hunting and fishing license fees, and whereas, these license fees have not been increased since 1975, despite rising fish and wildlife management program costs due to inflation and the addition of new, including nongame wildlife, programs, and whereas, supplementary federal funding of nongame programs, particularly those funded under the Endangered Species Act, have been totally eliminated for fiscal year 1982, and whereas, continued implementation of existing nongame and endangered species projects will for the foreseeable future depend on State revenue, and whereas, a bill (S.6023B by Sen. Eckert) has been introduced in the NYS Legislature to increase the conservation fund by raising hunting and fishing license fees and by providing for an income tax checkoff system, and whereas, the income tax checkoff proposal, if accepted, will be used largely to support nongame fish and wildlife programs of concern to the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs, *therefore, be it resolved that:* The Executive Committee of the FNYSBC and all of its members write letters of support or otherwise contact members of the NYS Legislature to express support for Sen. Eckert's bill, S.6023-B, prior to its being considered during a special session of the Legislature this October.

2. **ACID RAIN**

Whereas, it is well documented that there is a significant increase in the acidity of precipitation in New York State due to human activity, and whereas, said precipitation is known to have widespread and detrimental effects on the natural ecosystems of this State, and whereas, natural ecosystems thus affected are less able to cope with other man-caused or natural insults to their proper functioning, *therefore be it resolved that* the FNYSBC in annual session assembled hereby commend the Governor and State Legislature and the agencies under their jurisdiction, in the action taken to correct this problem and urge further persistent legal, diplomatic and scientific efforts to restore acceptable levels of acidity in precipitation in this State.

3. **GYPSY MOTH CONTROL**

The Federation does not believe the gypsy moth has a long-term negative impact on the forest lands of New York State. The Federation does not believe that aerial spraying of chemicals is warranted for the occasional population outbreaks. It believes that drift of spray and the potential buildup of toxic chemicals present additional dangers. The Federation does not believe that public funds should be used to protect private lands against the gypsy moth.

There was no old business. The 1982 Annual Meeting site was announced by Shelley Vakay as Riverhead, L.I., with the host club being Moriches Bay Audubon Society, on 1, 2 and 3 October. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Harriet Marsi, Secretary



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the past year the Executive Committee met three times: 1) 8 Nov. at Delmar; 2) 11 April at Binghamton; 3) 11 July at Cornell. New members to the Executive Board this year were Carole Slatkin and Walter Klabunde. The five original members of NYSARC continue to serve the Federation:

Ken Able . . . . .	term expires 1/1/86
Tom Davis . . . . .	term expires 1/1/85
Paul DeBenedictis . . . . .	term expires 1/1/84
Robert Andrie . . . . .	term expires 1/1/83
Robert Paxton . . . . .	term expires 1/1/82

A recommended modification of NYSARC procedure; namely, an acknowledgment post card has been implemented. The Executive Committee changed the number of Lillian Stoner awards from 2 to 3, and from \$75 to \$100 dollars for this year. Additionally, upon the recommendation of Dick Sloss, Federation funds have been transferred from traditional saving and certificate accounts into Scudder Funds which are paying 17% at the moment.

The Bylaws were modified, with your approval, to permit the Executive Committee to change our dues structure as rampant inflation necessitates, without the fear of running in the red due to old Bylaw time restrictions. After our rate structure change, 10,000 membership brochures were printed and over 4,000 already distributed. The Federation took and more importantly, expressed its support\* as well as taking a stand favoring increases in hunting, fishing and trapping license fees. Charlie Smith and Ed Reilly drafted, and the Executive Committee approved, a position statement on the introduction of exotic species. Mike Peterson presented the Federation Executive Committee's approved position at hearings related to the mining of sphagnum in the Adirondacks. He was joined in this endeavor by Don Timmons of High Peaks Audubon Society.

The long-awaited project of Susan Drennan's *Where to Find Birds in New York State* is coming to fruition and, as this project comes to a conclusion, the Atlas project, under the direction of Gordon Meade and Charlie Smith, moves into full swing. The Atlas project is successful due to the cooperation of the state DEC; particularly Bob Miller, Janet Carroll and Gene McCaffery.

My job, for the past two years, has been easy due to the legacy of experience offered by members of the Executive Committee, Standing Committee Members, regional *Kingbird* editors, regional Atlas coordinators, and pelagic field trip coordinators.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of them, with a special thanks for his many years of service to the Federation to Al Bell. Thanks, Al!

Thank you all.

Martin Borko  
President

\* Federal and State nongame monies.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Red-headed Woodpecker Breeding in Clinton County.** In 1957 J. B. Belknap (*Kingbird* Vol. VII, No. 3, pp. 87-88) suggested that there is considerable evidence that the Red-headed Woodpecker is increasing as a summer resident in northern New York. For Clinton Co., one of New York's most northern counties, the evidence for increased numbers is much more recent. Philip Warren (*Birds of Clinton County*) reported that prior to the spring of 1979 there were only four positive sightings for the county. Since 1979, however, the number of reports have increased and, more significantly, reports during the breeding season have increased. However, this increase is limited to southern Champlain and northern Chazy townships only. This type of population increase over a restricted area is similar to what has been reported for other areas of the state, most notable of which is Ackley's report for the Oneida area (*Kingbird* Vol. XVI, No. 4, p. 214).

This area of Clinton Co. is open country with scattered woodlots used primarily for farming. It borders Lake Champlain and ranges in elevation from 100-250 feet above sea level. It is also my impression that the bird shows a decided preference for the river bottoms in this area (Little and Great Chazy Rivers and Corbeau Creek).

In August 1981 adults were seen feeding juvenals at two locations. This represents the first known evidence of breeding for the Red-headed Woodpecker in Clinton Co. In July, at another location, adults were repeatedly observed retrieving insects, using as a perch a large dead tree to which they returned each time prior to flying off in the same direction to a probable nesting site. This procedure was observed on numerous occasions over a period of two weeks.

*Mark Gretch, Rouses Point, New York 12979*

*Helen and Robert Booth, Plattsburgh, New York 12901*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The diversity of birding in our state again asserted itself this spring. The general descriptions run from a "best ever" describing April in Region 1 to a "worst ever" related to May in Region 9. The overall consensus seems to have been that this was a poor or disappointing migration. The regional variants from this were an eventful average in Region 5 and a good and rather early flow of migrants in Region 7. Looking closely at the reports you will see that the "poor" generally follows from substantial periods of bad weather in April and a May which produced few groundings of the passerines most of us so eagerly await in the spring.

Concentrating a bit more on the weather effects, we see in March a general warm spell from the 11th to the 14th which apparently was a prime factor in causing excellent waterfowl concentrations, bringing many birds in when the ice-free bodies of water were limited. Associated with this period you will find several first county waterfowl records from Region 9 and several very early arrival dates for Region 10, including Glossy Ibis, Semipalmated Plover, and Pine Warbler. Another warm spell brought a new state early date for Whip-poor-will, 25 March in Region 4. Early April brought another event in common, blizzard-like snow hitting all but Regions 6 and 7 in the 6 to 8 April period. Recovery from this varied widely as did reports of effects. Generally, it was sufficiently early so that few species were adversely affected. Tree Swallow and E. Bluebird seem to be the species most definitely and hardest hit, with cases of heavy mortality observed. Am. Woodcock and E. Phoebe were suspected of severe damage, but such effects were not obvious later. In Regions 8 and 9, heavy highway kills were noted as birds of many species foraged along roads while the countryside was blanketed. Late April actually saw many very early arrivals with new state early dates recorded for Least Flycatcher on 17 April in Region 9, and 25 April for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Region 3 and for Gray-cheeked Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler in Region 10. May brought the flat weather lamented by so many. The first half was sunny and warm, the latter half cold and wet over most of the state with only Region 6 reporting the reverse. The lack of frontal passages resulted in few groundings and the persistent warmth and sunshine in direct overflights by many migrants.

In researching alternative ways to proceed from here with high-

lighting, I considered an update of the Blue List review appearing in the 1980 Highlights for this season. Early preparation for this led to a substantial trauma with the revelation of a great crash in our House Sparrow population, not currently "bluelisted" but obviously soon to be so, as it now is noted in *only one region*! Additional review showed Downy Woodpecker and Starling in similar straits. More seriously, in two of these cases we can only wish it were so, and in all of our reading and analysis of the regional reports we should keep in mind that they too are *highlights* for the regions, and that birds always abundant, never really absent, consistently flagged over many years past, or absent from lack of reports, and not particularly of interest to the regional editor, may all appear as simply missing.

Proceeding conventionally in a relatively general vein, there were only two potentially wide-ranging environmental impact issues noted specifically this season. The first, affecting Regions 1, 2, 5, and 6, is the revival of the Lake Ontario sport fishery with highest intensity usage now coinciding with the historical peak feeding and resting periods for loons and some diving ducks. It remains to be seen whether this will really impact populations or just change this specific migration stop. So far it certainly has reduced reports of concentrations along this lakeshore in mid-April. The second issue is a more positive report from Region 9 that this spring the forests, with the exceptions of white pine and hemlock, have recovered well following last year's massive Gypsy Moth defoliation. This may provide some consolation to all the rest of us who must certainly see this scourge in our futures, probably periodically into the indefinite future.

Continuing with a broad brush, we next examine some of the major spring flights awaited in various parts of the state. Loons, usually viewed along the coast and the Great Lakes, were nowhere recorded in good numbers; Red-throated Loon being particularly scarce. The grebe picture was similar, except that Region 2 again recorded another large gathering of Red-necked Grebes, echoed by a new regional high for this species in Region 5. Waterfowl provided the brightest picture with five regions calling the early flight "good" to "best since 1976" and only one "poor." The hawk flight was very good at the two major hawk watches reporting (see tables in Region 5 and 6) and elsewhere was termed up in Region 6 and low in Regions 1 and 9. At the Braddock Bay hawk watch, no less than eight species were tallied at record highs for the recent six years when daily counts have been compiled. Shorebirding was probably typical. There were few really high counts and inland there were the usual habitat woes, but

all expected species were reported with good variety present in most regions. Tern comments were generally negative with the exceptions of Regions 6 and 10, though Caspian Tern was recorded in all of the more easterly regions where it is usually rarer. The thrush picture was mixed, with good reports from the breeding regions again suggesting that some of the negatives may simply represent cases of lack of groundings. Among the vireos and warblers one also finds a wide variety of perceptions. The overall picture, however, was one of scarcity and as these are among the most eagerly awaited of our spring migrants, this perception certainly darkened the impression of the whole migration for many observers. From the summation of regional views, we might track more closely Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Ovenbird. There were no icterids meriting special attention, though you will find expressions of concern for E. Meadowlark in Regions 1, 5, and 9 and for Scarlet Tanager in Region 9. The winter finches remaining and returning provided noteworthy records from nearly every region. Sparrows again received mixed reviews, with most of the grassland species of most concern; Savannah finally arriving on the negative list in Region 1, Grasshopper and Henslow's unchanged to down further everywhere, and only Vesper up slightly in Regions 3, 4, and 7. The rest of the sparrow tallies and comments appear to fall within normal bounds.

Moving on to a finer focus, there are some species whose situation deserves more detailed consideration or whose regional commentary is of particular interest. Cattle Egret provides something of a mystery. Ten years ago it was increasing and even breeding in scattered locations across the state. This year it was recorded in only seven regions, with only singles or twos in six of these. By way of contrast, Snowy Egret reached a new high in Region 5. After last spring's highs in more easterly areas, Whistling Swans returned to their normal flight path with peak numbers in Region 1. Note the signs of recovery for Brant in Region 9 and the continued increase of Snow Goose at Montezuma NWR. Ring-billed Gull is booming both in numbers of nests in the breeding colonies and as huge flocks of apparent non-breeders in fields in Region 2. Both cuckoos are up where Gypsy Moths are or were last year and are lower elsewhere. Barn Owl is apparently in very poor shape with only two reports, one found dead in Region 8. In Region 2, Great Horned Owl lost many nests to high winds, while in Region 9 they took over a small Yellow-crowned Night Heron nesting colony. The Common Nighthawk's mysterious decline is still evident almost everywhere west of Region 9.



Blue Jay and Common Crow stage spectacular annual flights along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Once again, documentation is minimal, with counts from only Derby Hill in Region 5. This comment holds true for many of the passerines with detailed counts being made only occasionally at Braddock Bay or Derby Hill. Given the major irruption of Boreal Chickadee last fall, the return flight was eagerly awaited. However, only three were recorded, one each in Regions 1, 2, and 9, outside of their normal haunts in Region 7. E. Bluebird continues to improve slowly. Nestbox trails are accounting for a substantial part of this increase. Loggerhead Shrike is a rarity, recorded only in five regions in small numbers. White-eyed Vireo, long considered a rarity over much of the state, accumulated to 17+ reports, also from five regions. The Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler complex provides an interesting study, with a Golden-winged decrease as Blue-winged increases and the numbers of hybrid reports increasing. Reports of "Lawrence's" Warbler from six regions is most indicative of the amount of hybridization occurring. Connecticut Warbler has long been considered a great rarity in the spring. This season it is reported from five regions. One might at least suspect that some of its apparent rarity lies in its reclusive habits in dense habitat, with migration dates often very late, after foliage is well out, and many of our eager observers have slacked off from their early season pace. This year four of the five observation dates lie between 23 and 31 May. The fifth, on 16 May, a female, might be reevaluated as a male in the light of two banding reports in Region 8, where apparent MacGillivray's Warblers netted were found to be Mourning Warblers holding over their split eyerings into their first spring. With Brewer's Blackbird there was more evidence that we may see a new breeding bird added to the state list soon, as a bird was sighted in Region 1 and up to 24 returned to the same area in Region 2 where they visited last spring, this year arriving earlier and departing later. The fantastic numbers of Com. Redpoll saw banding of 1190 in Region 5 and 796 in Region 8. Along with these were at least 27 Hoary Redpoll reports accepted, with 12 of these, seven of them banded, in Region 5.

In addition to those groups and species which my particular set of interests and biases has led me to highlight in some detail, there are data buried in the regional reports to appeal to almost any interest. There is a waterfowl table in Region 3, long a feature and a guidepost to inland waterfowl numbers. There are Big Day/Century Run reports in Regions 3, 8, and 9 and special spring censuses in Region 1. Banding reports appear for Regions 1, 5, 8, and 10. In addition to early ar-

rivals noted above, there were three very late dates: Pine Grosbeak in Region 7, Lapland Longspur in Region 2, and Snow Bunting in Regions 2 and 6. There are several first or second regional and county records and a number of regional high counts. Breeding records of special note include: Com. Merganser in Regions 1 (in an unused chimney) and 8, the Bald Eagle nests still active in Regions 2 and 6, record early Yellow-rumped Warbler eggs in Region 1, Louisiana Waterthrush in Region 6, firsts for Red-tailed Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Pine Siskin on Staten Island, and a first for Red Crossbill on Long Island. There are additional species continuing in widespread decline: Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, Black Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bobwhite, Whip-poor-will, and Short-billed Marsh Wren. Some more species are showing at least tentative signs of recovery: Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Ring-necked Pheasant, Least Flycatcher, and the kinglets. Others flagged for closer watching are: Screech Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, House Wren, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Still others continue long term increases previously reported: Turkey Vulture, Com. Raven, inland Fish Crow, and House Finch. Finally, there are a number of special comments tucked away in the editorial commentary, such as: a change in Canada Goose feeding strategy in Region 3, the punctual return of Chimney Swifts in Region 8, a case of interspecific grooming in Region 7, grackles killing and eating finches in Region 9, and House Finches moving from towns and suburbs to the general field in Region 9. These are just a sampling, there is much more for you to dig out.

Following all these attempts at serious analysis, we come to the lighter fare, though actually the carrot which leads many afield, the rarity list. As usual, many of those flagged in the regional reports are of only local scarcity or of habitual inclusion. Some are being recorded with sufficient frequency that one must wonder at their continued status as special-note rarities, *e.g.*: Great Egret, Snowy Egret, European Wigeon, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler. The regional bests include: 1) Barnacle Goose, No. Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Brewer's Blackbird; 2) Stilt Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, No. Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Brewer's Blackbird, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow; 3) Curlew Sandpiper, White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Laughing Gull, Arctic Tern, Com. Raven, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; 4) Fish Crow and Yellow-headed Blackbird; 5) Thayer's Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler; 6) Hawk-Owl and Bohemian Waxwing; 7) Glos-

sy Ibis and Gyrfalcon; 8) Prothonotary Warbler; 9) Common Eider, King Eider, Louisiana Heron, and Chuck-will's-widow; and 10) Swallow-tailed Kite, Pileated Woodpecker on Long Island, Varied Thrush, Swainson's Warbler, and Harris' Sparrow. Soaring over and above all of these, Region 9's frigatebird receives the BOTS award. Hopefully the NYSARC review of the sighting details will establish the species.

The complete list totals to 325 plus the two warbler hybrids. Missing, but with reasonable expectations were: Little Blue Heron, Spruce Grouse, Sandhill Crane, King Rail, Piping Plover, Franklin's Gull, Least Tern, Roseate Tern, and Seaside Sparrow. Some of these may simply be too common or regular along the coast to have made their regional highlights.

*716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580*

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"Look, Ma,—no shadow!" is what some birders are coming to as they spread themselves ever thinner, captured by the challenge of Atlasing while at the same time continuing usual activities. There should be a special Merit Award for the faithful, serious observer who, in spite of the extra load, continues to grind out invaluable reports month after month.

The spring season opened with the icy winter continuing well into March. Then, with southerly winds at last on 11 March, came a flood of birds: Ring-billed Gulls, robins, Starlings, grackles, red-wings and Song Sparrows. On 19 March there were "19 species of Ducks, Geese and Swans in southern Cattaraugus County, possibly the biggest early movement since 1976." (Eaton) Temperatures for the month averaged 1.1° F. (.6° C.) colder than normal and precipitation, 1.4 inches below the usual. On 9 March at Farmersville Station Don and Jane Clark were treated to the sight of eight Turkeys roosting 75 feet from their window and on 28 March Don netted 110 birds, the best banding there in years.

The cold northeaster that dropped six to ten inches of snow 6 to 8 April was a history maker, as the first "blizzard" ever this late, and brought both resident and migrating birds in hordes to feeders. Three of the usual six female Turkeys returned to the Eatons' feeder on Ten Mile Road near Allegany after being absent a week. Temperatures for the month were 2.9° F. (1.6° C.) below normal and precipitation was 1.6 inches below average. Lakes and small ponds were iced in through mid-April—two weeks late. At Farmersville Station 945 birds were netted, making it second only to 1976 as the "best April banding in 17 years" (D. Clark).

The backwardness of the season was still felt in May with the ice pack, acting like a giant refrigerator, lasting in Lake Erie until mid-month. However, high temperatures from then on brought the monthly average to 3.8° F. (2.1° C.) above normal. Although nearly two weeks late, not really beginning until 4 May, with a fair influx on 7 May, the warbler migration was called "mediocre," "disappointing" and "not good" with all, except for a good sampling of species, overflying us because of continuously beautiful weather. The onset of a rainy spell 22 May to the end of the period brought the precipitation total up to nearly normal and downed more birds, particularly in the western areas of the region. (Weather Data: Wellsville and WIVB-TV Buffalo).

Positives include: 1) a memorable issue of beautiful postage stamps depicting the bird and flower for each of our fifty States; 2) Great Blue Herons doing well with one to seven per day; 3) breeding confirmed for Common Mergansers in Wellsville; and Red-breasted Mergansers "wildly abundant during April" (Mosher); 4) encouraging reports of Bald Eagles; 5) good survival by grouse and Turkeys; and one to two pheasants reported here and there in Allegany Co.; 6) regular sightings of one to six per day of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; 7) excellent numbers of Common Flickers and Red-bellied Woodpeckers; and Hairy Woodpeckers doing slightly better with one to six per day; 8) good numbers of Least Flycatchers—two to 16 per day; a "particularly strong" Rough-winged Swallow flight in early May (Jones); and Bank Swallows plentiful in Chautauqua Co.; 9) young Blue Jays scarce (Larson) a reflection of the high Great Horned Owl population?; 10) a Red-breasted Nuthatch incursion; 11) mimic thrushes doing well; 12) the Eastern Bluebird flourishing with more well-maintained nest box trails; 13) a great gnatcatcher discovery; 14) a fair flight of Ruby-crowned Kinglets; 15) many, many Warbling Vireos, Tennessee Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Cape May Warblers and Northern Waterthrushes; and a possible record early nest of the Yellow-rumped Warbler; 16) "exploding" numbers of Purple Finches (D. Clark)—surely *not* being ousted by the House Finch here; and a stupendous winter finch flight; and 17) lots of towhees and Fox Sparrows.

Negatives include: 1) "a slow year" as to number of species by the end of March (Rew); 2) a poor showing of most long-legged waders; 3) hawk numbers generally down slightly; 4) scarcity of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Screech Owls (Would nesting boxes encourage these owls?), nighthawks (only one to three mentioned in less than a half-dozen reports,) and Red-headed Woodpeckers (except in the Dunkirk area); 5) phoebes still in a slump and only one to six Horned Larks per day; 6) the Tree Swallow May Census down by half and Bank Swallows fewer in Allegany Co.; and Cliff Swallows generally scarce; 7) very few titmice; 8) lower numbers of House Wrens (but still too many for the bluebird trail); 9) fewer Hermit, Gray-cheeked and Wood Thrushes as well as Veeries; 10) still no large numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets; 11) low shrike numbers (no Loggerheads); 12) Golden-winged Warblers scarce; singles in only five areas; 13) continuing low numbers of meadowlarks; one to seven per day; but many grackles; 14) a "very weak" return migration for goldfinches (Jones); 15) Savannah Sparrows losing ground; and 16) a generally light flight of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Barnacle Goose, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Acadian Flycatcher, Boreal



Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard Oriole, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: AAC—18 April Bird Census or AMC—16 May Bird Census for Allegany Co.; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; CAC—18 April Bird Census or CMC—16 May Bird Census for Cattaraugus Co.; Cem—Cemetery; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; JAS—Jamestown Audubon Society; LEAC—18 April Bird Census or LEMC—16 May Bird Census for Lake Erie Bird Club; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; Sanct—Sanctuary; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

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*Corrigendum:* In *The Kingbird* Vol. XXXI, No. 2, Spring 1981, page 88 line 5 should read **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**, one imm. at Iroquois NWR 21 Feb (AS).—It is *not* 21 birds. (Thanks to Doug Kibbe for catching this error.)

**LOONS—DUCKS:** The Com. Loon flight began early with one in nonbreeding plumage at Celoron 16 Mar (AR); seasonal max was six at Allegheny Res. 11 Apr (DG) and a total 13 other birds came down in seven widespread locations. Grebes were poorly reported but a Red-necked Grebe was seen at Celoron 7 to 12 Mar (DG). The only spring Double-crested Cormorants were singles at Buffalo 1-5 Mar, Iroquois NWR 20 Apr, Dunkirk Harbor 24 Apr and (an imm.) at Greenhurst, Chautauqua L. 22 May. Noteworthy long-legged waders include at least five Great Egrets irregularly during April and May in four areas; a very early **SNOWY EGRET** along the N.Y. State Thruway near Barcelona 1 Apr (C. & R. Slack); Black-crowned Night Heron, two on LEMC and singles over Jamestown 9 and 13 May (DG) and at Eggertsville 31 May (AM, WM); and Am. Bittern, singles at Keeney Swamp, Birdsall Twp., 8 May and in Olean during May. Max of the Whistling Swan flight was 1000+ over Long Point SP, Chautauqua L. 13 Mar (GO), another excellent spring, and of the Canada Goose, 45,400 at Iroquois NWR 29 Mar (JM+). The old pair as well as two young of the Clarks' wild Canada Geese nested this year again at Farmersville Sta., fledging a total of 11 young, and were joined by a third pair of adults in May; "Tag-a-long," a gander imprinted on their Great Dane, constantly protects their front yard from all and sundry—a perfect nuisance. "Anybody want a Canada Goose?" (DC, JCI). A Brant at Lipperts and Knolts' field, three miles w. of Allegany on 23 May was watched five minutes before it flew down the Allegheny R. valley (SE). Possibly an escape, a **BARNACLE GOOSE**, was identified at Tonawanda GMA 28 Mar (RA+). The only reported Snow Geese were max five at Iroquois NWR 20 to 29 Mar (all "blues"). Highest of spring duck reports, with a few additions of interest, were: Mallard, 210+ at Cassadaga L. outlet, overwintering to early Apr; Black Duck six on AAC, two in s. Cattaraugus Co. 17 Mar and one at Little Genesee 21 May; Gadwall, 25 at



Iroquois NWR 14 Mar; Pintail, 4397 at Iroquois NWR 7 Apr; Green-winged Teal, an early male in Dunkirk 13 Mar (JB, NB) and max 185 at Randolph 10 Apr (FR)—a goodly number; Blue-winged Teal, 20 at Cuba L. 20 Apr; Am. Wigeon, 1056 at Iroquois NWR 7 Apr; No. Shoveler, five at Iroquois NWR 17 Apr; Wood Duck: six at both S. Stockton 11 Apr and Farmersville Sta. 13-30 Apr; Redhead, two on both the LEAC and at Iroquois NWR 18 Mar; Ring-necked Duck, 352 at Iroquois NWR 7 Apr—record numbers for Region One; Canvasback, 14 at Iroquois NWR 19 Mar; Greater Scaup, none; Lesser Scaup, 20 at Iroquois NWR 19 Mar; Com. Goldeneye, 13 at Tonawanda GMA 10 Mar; Bufflehead, six on Amity L. 3 May; Oldsquaw, 70 at the Allegheny Res. 11 Apr; White-winged Scoter, 24 on the Allegheny Res. 19 Mar; Ruddy Duck, max ten at Iroquois NWR 20 Apr and two at Lily Dale 10 Apr; Hooded Merganser, 18 at Dunkirk 27 Mar; Com. Merganser: max 24 in s. Cattaraugus Co. 17 Mar, and breeding confirmed in Wellsville as a pair nesting in an unused house chimney on Chamberlain St. fledged five young on 29 May (EL); and Red-breasted Merganser, 200 at Celoron 23 Mar.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Maxima of hawk flights, all over Pinehurst unless otherwise noted, were: Turkey Vulture, 89 on 31 Mar; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 47 on 16 Apr; Cooper's Hawk, two on 16 Apr; Red-tailed Hawk, 51 on 16 Apr; Red-shouldered Hawk, five on 20 Mar; Broad-winged Hawk, a total of 258 imm. in Towns of Evans, Orchard Park and Brant on 29 May; Rough-legged Hawk, two on 25 Apr; Marsh Hawk, two, 16 Apr; Osprey, two on 15 Apr; **PEREGRINE FALCON**, one over Pinehurst 16 Apr (RA+); and Am. Kestrel, nine on 16 Apr. Other notable hawks include: Turkey Vulture, good numbers, 36 counted from 13 locations; **GOSHAWK**, one identified at Farmersville Sta. 4 Mar (DC) and two nests in Allegheny Co., both lost to predation (ES+); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 11 from seven sites, total; Cooper's Hawk, singles in ten areas with three nests discovered in Allegheny Co.; Red-shouldered Hawk, 16 birds counted from seven spots and at least seven pairs nesting region-wide; Rough-legged Hawk, 17 widespread birds during Mar, two or three still around in Apr with the last at Amity L. 28 Apr; **BALD EAGLE**, an ad and an imm at Allegheny Res 5 Apr (JB) as well as single imm's at Iroquois NWR 25 Mar (JM), in the Town of Portland 29 and 30 May (KF, DCr) and in the Town of Brant 29 May (RA) while of the two more imm's at Iroquois NWR 23 Apr (OO) one had an ID marker; Marsh Hawk, 16 birds, total, from eight areas; Osprey, singles in at least eight regionwide locations; Am. Kestrel, 90 on AAC, 23 on AMC, five on CAC and one on CMC. Two Virginia Rails were spotted at East Aurora 24 Apr (MZ) while another combed "the cattails for a tape-recorded rival" near Dunkirk 31 May (TM). Soras appeared as one at Tonawanda WMA 20 Apr (JM), two at East Aurora 24 Apr (MZ) and one, "also ready to battle a cassette recorder" at W. Mud L. 31 May (AB, TM). High count for Com. Gallinules was four at Tonawanda WMA 29 Apr and for Am. Coot, 160 at Celoron 26 Mar. Notable from the shorebird flight were: Ruddy Turnstone, four at Canadaway Creek NS 31 May (TM) and three at the mouth of Bemus Creek, Chautauqua L. 19 May (RS); Com. Snipe, 49 on Riverside Rd., Chautauqua Co., 11 Apr (DG)—a high spring count; Upland Sandpiper, one on the LEMC, one in the Town of Kiantone 17 Apr, two at Iroquois NWR 2 May, one at Keeney Swamp, Allegheny Co., 8 May, and max two irregularly at Dunkirk-Fredonia airport 12-31 May; Greater Yellowlegs, max 24 in Town of Hanover 16 Apr (FR)—a good number; Lesser Yellowlegs, max 40 at Hanover Flats, near Silver Creek 18 Apr (TW)—high for spring; Pectoral Sandpiper, unusually low numbers, max only 25 on Riverside Rd. 11 Apr; Dunlin, early birds: one at Iroquois NWR 16 Apr, Census day (JM) and 12 at Bemus Creek, Chautauqua L. 19 May (RS); Short-billed Dowitcher, three at Buffalo Harbor 14 May (O'Dell); and **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**, not usual in the spring, singles at Iroquois NWR 18 May (JM) and in the Town of Elma 24 May (Happ, Reid). Among noteworthy spring larids were: Glaucous Gull, one at Iroquois NWR 28 Mar (JM+); **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**, one imm., seen during Feb. and Mar (mob) in Dunkirk Harbor, still there 3 Apr (FR+); Com. Tern, max 40 in Dunkirk Harbor 25 Apr (RS, DG); Iceland Gull, one "in second-winter plumage" in Dunkirk Harbor 8 Mar (TM) and possibly the same bird there 17 Apr (FR); Caspian Tern, three at Cuba L. 16 Apr, two at Pinehurst

25 Apr, and two at Dunkirk Harbor 25 Apr; and Black Tern, the only report: four at Burgeson Sanct. 19 May (F. Gardner).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Although the Black-billed Cuckoo was well reported, the only Yellow-billed were one on LEMC, two on AMC, and singles w. of Fredonia 28 May (TM) and at Farmersville Sta. 21 May (DC). Possibly a nest box project here and there would help the Screech Owls which are rarely noted with the only ones, singles on LEMC and at Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk 22 May (AB+) and two at Farmersville Sta. all season (DC). Single Snowy Owls were seen in the Town of Sheldon 6 Mar (AM, WM), at Buffalo Harbor 7 Mar (FR) and at Buffalo 21 May (O'Dell). Except in the Dunkirk area, where five were found 9 May (AW) and 15 ten days later (RM). Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce with only two on AAC, five on AMC, and singles at four other reported sites.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Things look dark for our E. Phoebe, if the few census tallies in so far are any indication: 35 on AAC (70 two years ago), 108 on AMC (240 in 1980) and five on CMC and none on CAC. Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found on CMC and in Eggertsville 25 May (AM, WM), and three **ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS** were calling on breeding territory on Big Indian Creek in n.e. Cattaraugus Co. 28 May (SE). The only Willow Flycatchers were singles at Iroquois NWR 18 May, Census day (JM) and at Amity L. 25 May (VP). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared on LEMC, on CMC and w. of Fredonia 26 May (JK, PK). A little raspy-voiced **BOREAL CHICKADEE** visited Amity Twp, Allegany Co., 23 and 27 Apr (VP). Tufted Titmouse numbers were down: nine on AAC, three on AMC and a dozen birds from eight other reports. Less plentiful, too, were wrens: House Wren, one early at Amity L. 16 Apr (VP); Winter Wren, one at Alfred 23 Apr (EB)—the only one; and Carolina Wren, singles on AAC, on LEMC, at Alfred 29 Mar (EB); at Spring Brook 14-25 May (DD) and at Jamestown 14 and 28 Mar (LK). The Mockingbird numbered two on AAC and four on AMC with singles noted in five areas, and a Brown Thrasher at a Frewsburg feeder 27 Mar (Yaich) may have overwintered. The E. Bluebird is doing well with 64 on AMC (76 last year), 35 pairs *reported* nesting regionwide (no reports from two large bluebird trails) and 13 areas noting 25 birds, total, other than nesters. Now for some *really* exciting news . . . ! While its mate watched, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was discovered building a nest in a willow about 25 feet above the water at Canadaway Creek NS 15 May; it was "on a horizontal branch in a niche" formed by a vertical limb at the site (FR)—a rare find! Another pair was seen gathering nesting material in a different area of the Sanctuary 13 May (TM, LB) and was still there on the 15th (FR). Always an exciting bird to see, another Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared near Alfred 22 and 27 Apr (CK), three were spotted in the Town of Amherst 5 May (AM, WM) and one was at Amity L. 14 May (VP). Max report for the Golden-crowned Kinglet was 25 at Burgeson Sanct. 11 Apr (DG), and for the Ruby-crowned, 10 near Alfred 29 Apr (CK). No reports were received of the Loggerhead Shrike and single Northern were found in only five areas.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Again a **WHITE-EYED VIREO** was banded this spring at Fredonia 30 May (MVJ) and singles were seen at Williamsville 3-6 Apr (Yoerg), at Jamestown 6 May (DG, RS) and at Burgeson Sanct. 8 May (AR). Other interesting vireo sightings were: Yellow-throated Vireo, one to three at Spring Brook 15-31 May, and singles at Canadaway Creek NS 17 May and in the Town of Amherst 20 May; Solitary Vireo, one, early, at Amity L. 16 Apr (VP); and Philadelphia Vireo, two at Willowbrook Cem., Dunkirk, 11 May and one at Burgeson Sanct. 13 May. A rare "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER** was identified in the Town of Holland 27 May (RA, Gregorys). A few other highlights of the warbler migration include: Orange-crowned Warbler, one at Willowbrook Cem., Dunkirk, 30 Apr (NB); No. Parula, one banded at Farmersville Sta. 13 May (DC) and one at Little Genesee 19 May (FD); Black-throated Blue Warbler, singles in the Town of Amherst 6 May (AM, WM) and near Alfred 13 May (EB); Yellow-rumped Warbler, max of flight, 100 near Alfred 29 Apr (CK) and nesting again near Alfred (EB) and in Amity Twp (VP) with a nest with two eggs in the latter area 18 May (VP) that is possibly record early for NY state by two days; Cerulean

Warbler: one on AMC and a female in Jamestown 9 May (DG); Blackpoll Warbler, one at Iroquois NWR 18 May, Census day (JM); Pine Warbler, two on AMC, three at Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk, 25 Apr (RS, DG), and singles in the Town of Wales 17 May (Hein) and late on Univ. Campus, Alfred, 28 May (CK); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one, very early, in the Town of Wheatfield 22 Apr (D'Anna, Potter), max four near Alfred 29 Apr-30 May on old breeding grounds (CK, EB) and two pairs in Amity Twp. 25-29 May with one pair building a nest here the 27th (VP); Louisiana Waterthrush, one on LEMC, and singles on Ten Mile Rd., near Allegany, 17 Apr (SE), near Alfred 20 Apr (CK) and w. of Fredonia 7 May (TM); **KENTUCKY WARBLER**—a real surprise—one at Keeney Swamp, Birdsall Twp., Allegany Co. 8 May (DBs, VP, EB, CK, SB); **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**—startling before August—a male banded by MVJ on Temple St., Fredonia, 23 May and seen also by RM and TM; **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**, one on Berry Rd., w. of Fredonia on LEMC (JG) and another near Saunders Pond, Amity Twp., Allegany Co., 18 May (VP); and Hooded Warbler, two on AMC and one banded at Farmersville Sta. 15 May (DC).

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** A male **ORCHARD ORIOLE** was found at Frewsburg 29 May (RS) and two appeared in the Town of Evans 17-31 May (RA). The Rusty Blackbird flight included 14 on AAC, 32 on LEAC and 55 on CAC with nine other birds total, at four feeders. A "subadult male" **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** appeared on old Kiantone Rd. w. of junction with Rt. 60 on 14 Mar (RS, DG). Max of spring Evening Grosbeak reports was 100 in the Town of Wales 22 Mar (Rosche) with last of the season two there 22 May; total spring bandings were 25 at Limestone (RV), 39 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 103 at Alfred Sta. (EB). Superb numbers of Purple Finches were widely reported with max 50 at each of two feeders, Farmersville Sta. (DC) and Jamestown (Anderson) during Apr; 131 of the species were banded at Farmersville Sta. during May (DC). The best any report could come up with for the House Finch was 20 at Eggertsville 1-30 Apr (AM, WM). One lone Pine Grosbeak was sighted near Alfred 20 Mar (CK). Max of the tremendous Com. Redpoll flight was 100 near Alfred 25 Mar (CK) with bandings, all during Mar and Apr, 127 at Alfred Sta (EB), 17 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 14 at Limestone (RV). Pine Siskins, too, were everywhere with max 75 in Jamestown 9 May (DG) and bandings during Apr and May 340 at Alfred Sta (EB), 245 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 44 at Limestone (RV); a pair banded in Fredonia 24 Apr were in breeding condition (MVJ)—(Oh, for a nesting!). A few Red Crossbills were noted: four on AAC, 12 at Orchard Park 18 Apr (RA, MF) and two near Alfred 23 Apr (EB), while good numbers of White-winged Crossbills came through: two on AAC, 18 on AMC, max 20 near Alfred 5 May (CK) and 11 May (EB) and 25 others counted from seven areas. Note-worthy spring sparrow news includes: Grasshopper Sparrow, three on LEMC, one on AMC, and three in Amity Twp. 25 and 27 May (VP); Henslow's Sparrow, four on LEMC, four on AMC, two s. of Fredonia 22 May (RM+) and one near Alfred 17 and 27 May (EB); Vesper Sparrow, 11 on AAC, 10 on AMC, one banded near Alfred 6 Apr (EB), nine on Frissel and E. Oak Hill Roads, Chautauqua Co., 9 Apr (RS, Peterson) and 12 in Alma Twp. 5 May (H. Link *vide* DB); White-crowned Sparrow, max ten at Belmont 11 May (DB, LB); White-throated Sparrow, max eight at Farmersville Sta. during Apr (DC) and the same number in Amity Twp. 1 May (VP); Fox Sparrow, 14 on AAC and one to three birds (actual count, 31) reported from 15 widespread locations; and Lincoln's Sparrow, one at Burgeson Sanct. irregularly 7 to 13 May (AR, EP), and banded: one at Farmersville Sta. 13 May (DC) and two at Alfred Sta. 6-8 May (EB). Highest seasonal report for Snow Buntings was 1000 in the Town of Sheldon 14 Mar (Rosches).

*Addendum:* In the Fall 1981 a *very late* Least Bittern was sighted at Tiff Farm 30 Oct (Mary Batcheller).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813



## REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

For the third consecutive spring we hear the whispered litany of species, scarce, or at least hard to find. Once again, there are reasons to be found, particularly in weather patterns. Yet, once again, while species totals remain good, many of the season's records are of only one or a very few individuals, and too many observers report too many days afield with too little bird song or activity.

Looking at the weather patterns for explanations, we find first a March cool and relatively dry, precipitation about one inch below normal, snowfall six inches below normal. Temperatures averaged cool, mostly due to cold daily lows, but with three warm spells, 4-5, 11-13 and 30-31 March, with good movements of early migrants in each. Waterfowl variety and numbers were excellent, the hawk count set a record for the month, and the early blackbird flights were good. Early arriving shorebirds and swallows, however, were few or absent. April began with a cold spell, and the last of winter's snowfall with a blizzard on the 6th and a moderate fall on the 11th. By the 7th, most of Braddock Bay and all of the smaller, shallower ponds had refrozen. The cold lasted through the 15th. Many of the early arriving insectivores certainly perished. The latter half of the month seasawed between warm and cool. Good flights, particularly of raptors, were reported on 16-17 and 23-26 April. From the hawk watch records, we see that most days had good winds for lakeshore migration for only a short while, followed by a shift to lake-effect NE to NW breezes. This dispersed the large Broad-winged Hawk concentrations often seen along the lake. Passerines arrived at average to late dates with very few individuals reported for most of the new arrivals through month's end. 13 April brought the best of the shorebird and passerine flights documented for the month. May was again a split month, the first half mainly sunny, warm, and dry with migrants flying over and the latter half, cloudy, cool, and wet with loads of fresh green foliage to hide the later migrants. Daily observers reported very few days when birding could be considered good. In that category we find only 6 and 24 May, with 19 and 31 May added for the hawk watchers. Late in the month, on many nights, large numbers of birds could be heard passing overhead, though there was generally no fallout in the mornings following to reflect this. From the call notes, these flights contained substantial numbers of thrushes and warblers, among the families with low ground counts noted.

Long range trends remain difficult to impossible to extract from a spring's data, but numerous plus and minus observations are available to be studied later in the light of passing time. Among the positives are: most waterfowl numbers good, the large Red-necked Grebe counts, Am. Bittern observations up a bit, eight species of raptors at new highs for the six years of daily counts, Ring-necked Pheasant up a little, good numbers of Com. Flicker, flycatchers—particularly Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided, swallows, Com. Crow, Blue Jay, and Black-capped Chickadee, both kinglets up, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos abundant, Canada Warbler and Am. Redstart everywhere in numbers, and Brewer's Blackbirds back earlier, more numerous, and remaining later. The negatives include: the repeated massing of boats in the resting and feeding areas of loons, grebes,

and mergansers with numbers of these reported lower than normal, few Red-shouldered Hawks, shorebird habitat again poor—high lakes and dry fields, gulls poor except for thousands of Ring-bills lingering into June, terns very scarce except for breeding Black Terns, cuckoos low—probably cyclic, large losses of Great Horned Owl (old Red-tailed Hawk) nests in winds of March and early April, Whip-poor-will missing from normal breeding spots, few Carolina Wrens—no new locales, Short-billed Marsh Wren missing from several regular sites, thrushes low—particularly Gray-cheeked, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Yellow-throated Vireo missing from some breeding areas—though the frequently associated Cerulean Warblers are still present, Loggerhead Shrike back to only one local breeding area, Solitary Vireo late and few, several warblers reported in low numbers—Golden-winged, Orange-crowned, No. Parula, Black-throated Blue, and Ovenbird among these, and grassland sparrows (Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper) still bearing close watching. Many rarities which had seemed to be increasing and approaching regularity were missed: Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane, Common Raven, and Kentucky Warbler (subsequently found in June). Only a single Cattle Egret was sighted following last year's zero.

The total spring species count was 252, down from the totals of the past few years, but still good.

Rarities: European Wigeon, Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Barn Owl, Boreal Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Hoary Redpoll, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay Park and vicinity; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and town of Hamlin; IC—Island Cottage Woods, town of Greece; LP—Letchworth State Park; PB—Point Breeze and nearby parts of the town of Carlton; and WL—general lakeshore area west of Rochester, generally implying extensive lake count or poor localization of the sighting, mob—many observers.

Observers: Robert Ambrose, Ron & Kay Ballard, Doug Bassett, Jean Browning, Nancy Boudrie, Steve & William Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childres, Julie Claffey, Sharon Clark, Anne Clarridge, William Colsman, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Fritz Davis, Frank & Bob Dobson, Kay Doris, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Norm Henderson, Ted Jackson, Øivind Jensen, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Jane Kesselring, Sandy Klonick, David Levy, Warren Lloyd, Walter Listman, Hayward Madden, Bob & Margaret McKinney, David Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, P.O.S. (Allan, Brian, Dan, David & Grace Strong, and James Lenhard), Rochester Birding Association, Pat Reister, Marge Schmale, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike, and David Tetlow, Lyn & Eric VanderWerf, Joe & Ann Watson, Eleanor Weld, Doris Wilton, Munro Will, and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: This year's loon flight was poor with no really good counts reported and Red-throated Loon occurring only as singles. Com. Loon: 15 PB 23 May, was a high count for so late. Red-necked Grebe again massed in large numbers: 575 WL 24 Mar (RM, mob); and 1118+ WL 25 Mar (JS). These birds were present in varying numbers from 24 Mar-17 Apr, generally over a 3-20 mile stretch of Lake Ontario shoreline from about BB west. Searches to the east on the peak days produced very few birds. This staging occurred in a cold period prior to the fishing derby mobs appearing on the water. Horned Grebe and Pied-billed Grebe numbers were low. Double-crested Cormorant was observed in or near BB in small numbers thru, except for: 24 BB 9 May. Heron and egret numbers were very low ex-



cept for Green Heron and Great Blue Heron: max 60 in two hours BB 13 Apr (RD). A Cattle Egret: H 25 Apr was the only sighting. Great Egrets were few, only ten records. Black-crowned Night Heron remains very low. Am. Bittern, while still very low, was reported more frequently this spring. Waterfowl numbers and variety were excellent in migration and individuals of many species lingered in the region quite late. Interesting records included: Whistling Swan: max 66 WL ? Mar, down from last year's peak, but good; and one Kendall 22 May thru, late; Snow Goose: 300, mixed phases, Webster 18 Mar (WL), a good count for this region. EUROPEAN WIGEON: one BB 9 Apr (MD, mob); and one PB 13 Apr (WS), the same? Ring-necked Duck: 300 WL 25 Mar; 325 BB 9 Apr, good counts; and one Kendall and Carlton 23-31 May, late. Com. Goldeneye: one off Durand-Eastman Park 4 May, late. Oldsquaw: max 2000 Payne Beach 25 Mar. White-winged Scoter: max 1000 WL 25 Mar; and Black Scoter: three BB 23 May, late.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** The bulk of the raptor records are summarized in the table below. Eight Species (\*) were at new highs for the recent six years of daily spring counts conducted and compiled by Laura & Neil Moon. From the hawk watch data, the most obvious trends are that Turkey Vulture is increasing as a local migrant, Red-shouldered Hawk is in poor shape, and Bald Eagle is increasing, with good percentages of imms reported. Some of the high totals for some species must be attributed to better coverage this year on the west spit of BB; birds passing out over the lake or right along the shoreline and not visible from the central hawk lookout.

Braddock Bay Hawk Watch Summary  
26 Feb to 30 June

Species	Peak No.	Peak Date	1982 Total	1980 Total	6 yr. Average
Turkey Vulture*	533	3/31	2,512	1,626	1,580
Goshawk*	18	3/31	76	22	33.2
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	2633	4/17	8,452	7,714	5,642
Cooper's Hawk*	48	4/17	167	142	116
Red-tailed Hawk*	375	3/13	3,010	2,823	2,289
Red-shouldered Hawk	76	3/24	243	283	301
Broad-winged Hawk	2098	5/6	18,608	24,204	17,676
Rough-legged Hawk	62	3/13	411	231	325
Golden Eagle	2	4/25, 5/6	11	8	9.8
Bald Eagle*	4	3/31	39	14	19.0
Marsh Hawk	68	4/16	555	437	407
Osprey	21	5/6	148	107	117
Peregrine Falcon	2	5/19	4	3	3.7
Merlin*	2	4/10, 5/6, 5/7	16	6	6.8
American Kestrel*	248	4/17	999	536	570
Unidentified accipiter	3	3/24	6	17	6.3
Unidentified buteo	251	4/16	925	581	697
Unidentified eagle	1	4/26	1	0	0.8
Unidentified falcon	2	4/16	5	2	3.3
Unidentified raptor			49	44	52.5
<b>Total Hawks</b>			<b>36,237</b>	<b>38,800</b>	<b>29,894</b>

1980 was the year of the highest total for daily counts. Additional raptor records of special interest are: Broad-winged Hawk: three H 24 Mar, early; Golden Eagle: about ten additional sightings; Bald Eagle: about eight additional individuals, 4 ad., 4 imm.; Peregrine Falcon: four more records; and Merlin: eight added records. These additional records are generally scattered thru the season from late Mar to 31 May. Ring-necked Pheasant calls were a bit more numerous this Spring. Turkey continues to spread. Ruffed Grouse were rumored good, but very few reports were received; part of the lake effect in local birding. After four

years of increased sightings, no Sandhill Crane this season. Rails received little coverage, as usual. All expected rail species were reported. With high lake levels and low precipitation until late in the season, shorebird habitat was poor. Still, there were many good records, among them: Black-bellied Plover: one Carlton 16 Apr, early; Whimbrel: three H 22 May, lower than many years; WILLET: one Pultneyville 30 May (FDa); Lesser Yellowlegs: 41 Greece 10 Apr; Pectoral Sandpiper: 15 H 2 Apr, a good early count; and 300 Bergen 2 May, a good number; White-rumped Sandpiper: one to four Perinton and WL 23-31 May, typical; Dunlin: one Greece 13 Mar, very early; Short-billed Dowitcher: eight BB 13 Apr, early; STILT SANDPIPER: one in breeding plumage Perinton 23 May (SK, mob), the third local spring record; RED PHALAROPE: one WL 14 Mar (AK), very rare in spring; Wilson's Phalarope: one Perinton 2-3 May (DS, mob), the only report this spring; and NORTHERN PHALAROPE: one female PB 29 May (MD, PR, ST), very rare in spring. Gull reports were very uninspiring this season. White-winged gull reports remain low with only: Glaucous Gull: one Round Pond 21 Mar; one imm. BB 17 Apr; and one BB 1, 14 May; and Iceland Gull: one Sodus Bay 7 Mar; and one BB 28-29 Mar. Other good gull records were: LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: one ad. Buck Pond 10 Apr (MD, KG), a second regional record; the masses of Ring-billed Gulls at Hogan Pt. and in Kendall, 10,000's thru May; and Little Gull: one ad. BB 24 Apr (PSP); and one imm. BB 30 May (ST). Other than the breeding Black Terns, terns were very scarce. The only Forster's Tern was: one BB 17 Apr, a typical arrival date. Com. Tern was observed on only a few occasions in late April and May. Caspian Tern arrived at an early date, 2 Apr, increased as expected, but then was virtually absent by Big Day, 23 May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Doves had their first fledglings leaving the nest in late May. Both cuckoos were plentiful in migration in late May, but scarce thereafter. Everybody likes the owls in this grouping. The best of their reports included: BARN OWL: one Leicester 23 May (MD, KG, CT); Great Horned Owl: few nest reports after the wind losses early in the season; Snowy Owl: one BB 20 Mar; one Hogan Pt. 12 Apr; and one PB 13 Apr, a good spring return flight; Long-eared Owl: the usual migrants around BB plus one IC 9 May, late; Short-eared Owl: one to three H 9, 10 and 14 Apr and 20 May; and Saw-whet Owl: the usual lakeshore migrants, one to four BB 24 Mar to 30 Apr. The rest of this grouping receives less attention, but we do find: Whip-poor-will scarce; Com. Nighthawk observed at a few more locations in better numbers; Ruby-throated Hummingbird numerous at PB, but not reported in numbers elsewhere; Belted Kingfisher: 55 BB 13 Apr, a good count in two hours; and Com. Flicker: 300+ BB 17 Apr, a good representation of their lakeshore flight this season. The lakeshore passage of Red-headed Woodpecker seemed down a bit this year. The other woodpeckers were reported in numbers, dates, and locations expected.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Flycatcher arrival dates averaged a bit late, though once here, numbers were good. E. Phoebe certainly must have suffered from the April cold spell; breeding reports should tell. The late May migration of *empidonax* was good, as was the total of 12+ sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher in the last ten days of May. Acadian Flycatcher singles at IC 25 May; BB 30 May; and PB 31 May were typical for this season. Swallow numbers were also very good; a representative peak being Tree Swallow: 4000+ BB 13 Apr. The Blue Jay and Com. Crow flights were again impressive, but with no active tallier. No Com. Ravens were reported after five consecutive years of spring sightings. The Black-capped Chickadee passage included only one BOREAL CHICKADEE: BB 16 Apr (MD, mob), though many were anticipated after last fall's irruption. Winter Wren was again very scarce. Carolina Wren was poorly reported, all records being from known wintering and breeding locales. Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported only from the marshes east of Sodus Bay. Among the thrushes, the Am. Robin flight was documented with counts of 10,000+ in two hours BB 13 Apr; and 15,000+ in four hours BB 30 Apr; while the other species received less particular attention. Gray-cheeked Thrush was especially difficult to locate this spring. E. Bluebird is doing well on nest box trails, mainly south of the lakeplain. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher arrived early: one IC 8 Apr; and is doing well in places, but had disappeared from some regular former breeding haunts. Both kinglets passed through in good numbers.

One No. Shrike lingered to 9 Apr at Parma. Loggerhead Shrike was noted at places and in numbers typical of recent years during migration, but was later present and presumed breeding only in the Carlton area.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** All expected vireos were reported: Red-eyed and Warbling numerous, Yellow-throated, Solitary, and Philadelphia fewer than usual. **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one LP 23 May (DB), was typical for the season. Thirty-four species of warblers were reported, none rare on an absolute scale. Interesting records included: Black-and-white: one 17 Apr, early; **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one Scottsville 23 May, a rare breeder in this region; Golden-winged: numbers down in contrast with the boom in Blue-winged and "Brewster's"; Orange-crowned: one Murray 22 May; and two BB 23 May, down from the numbers reported the past several years; No. Parula: few; Yellow: abundant; Yellow-rumped: max counted 400+ IC 6 May; Pine: many lakeshore records in late April and possible breeders in late May; **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** one LP 21-31 May, a possible breeding site; Louisiana Waterthrush: one IC 14-15 Apr, a rare lakeshore appearance; **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one PB 31 May (MD, WLi); Mourning Warbler: 16 LP 23 May, a good count; Yellow-breasted Chat: one Mendon Ponds 17 May thru; and one LP 23 May, never common; Hooded Warbler: one IC 26-29 Apr, usually scarce along the lakeshore; and 23 LP 23 May (DB). Most of the other warbler species received only passing comment on their abundance, e.g. singing Ovenbirds were few; Canada and Wilson's Warblers and Am. Redstart seemed particularly abundant.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink and E. Meadowlark were in good numbers in suitable habitat and in flight along the lakeshore. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** was reported only as the singing male at PB 16 Apr thru, its fourth spring return. The Orchard Oriole colony in the PB vicinity thrives. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** returned earlier—one H 21 Mar (MD); peaked higher—24 H 21 Apr (MD); and stayed later—two H 7 May (MD), than last year's first visitors. Can breeding be far behind? There was a large return flight of winter finches. Noteworthy finch records include: Evening Grosbeak: large flocks first appearing in early May; Purple Finch: relatively scarce; House Finch: breeding all through the region; **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Parma 23 Mar (PR); and one Greece 3 Apr (KG); Com. Redpoll: one Greece 6-8 May, the last; Pine Siskin: large flocks in April and early May; and both crossbills observed in small flocks sporadically thru the season. Among the grassland sparrows, Savannah is abundant; Henslow's and Grasshopper local; and Vesper poor on the lakeplain, fairly good in farmland to the south. A good find was a **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** at Hogan Pt., Greece, 30 May (RO), certainly a regular migrant here, but very rarely seen. The last of the Tree Sparrows noted was one Parma 3 May. The remainder of the sparrow migration was normal for numbers and dates. Very late records were turned in for Lapland Longspur: one H 23 May; and Snow Bunting: six H 23 May, both without details. A large flock of Snow Buntings was 2500+ BB 13 Mar.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Snow was gone by mid-March and late March brought some warm days, but winter 1982 hated to give up. It came roaring back with a foot of snow in Ithaca on 6 April. The northern part of the region got less, but it had snow for each of the first three weekends in April. Temperatures averaged three degrees F. below normal for the month. May was a little warmer than usual. In the north it was dry all month, but the south had some rain in the last half of the month.



The spring migration reports were mixed, as they often are. Many species were one to three weeks late. Almost daily northwest winds during April did not favor bird flight. Strong southerly winds 15-17 April brought in a good flight. There was a good movement of hawks between Danby and Arnot Forest and at Auburn.

Shorebirds were hard to find but nineteen species were sighted and a dozen, mostly the rarer ones, missed. Numbers were small, such as one Dunlin and one Short-billed Dowitcher. Against this was the region's first Curlew Sandpiper (awaiting NYSARC's decision).

Some birders mentioned the lack of thrushes, kinglets, vireos, and warblers. There were few "waves" and less than usual warbler song, but in the end small numbers of most species were found.

To offset the mostly disappointing passerine movement, the spring migration of winter finches was the best since 1978. They came in all through the period, but especially in late April and early May. Some lingered well toward the close of the period. All species including both crossbills were represented, many in good numbers.

Eastern Bluebirds are holding the gains of the past two years. The Owasco Valley Audubon Society has established a fifty-box bluebird trail in Cayuga County from Scipio to Locke.

Marsh Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasants and Vesper Sparrows, which have been nearly extirpated from the region, are showing slight signs of comeback.

Canada Geese at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge show an interesting and unexplainable change of habit. Last year, and even more so this year, they are leaving the Refuge early in the morning to forage in the surrounding country, and do not return to spend the night until dusk. Previously they made two such trips each day—morning and evening—and spent the day resting on the Refuge. The Snow Geese still follow the old pattern and can be found on the Refuge from mid-morning to late afternoon.

The bird clubs of the region held their usual "Big Day" in May as follows: Elmira Big Day held 15 May had 21 observers and found 144 species and two hybrids; Ithaca Big Day held 15 May found 130 species; and Geneva Big Day held 16 May had 13 observers and found 150 species. The total number of species reported from the region for the period was 214.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, White-fronted Goose, European Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Curlew Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Laughing Gull, Arctic Tern, Common Raven, Fish Crow, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: arr—arrival date; EBD—Elmira Big Day; Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; GBD—Geneva Big Day; L—Lake; Max—Maximum; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; Ow—Owasco; seminars—Laboratory of Ornithology Monday night seminars at Ithaca; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins; \* (starred)—details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 18 Cay L 16 May. Red-throated Loon: one at Shel-

drake, Cay L 6 and 13 Mar; one Keuka L south of Branchport in May. Red-necked Grebe: one in Mar at Penn Yan; three MNWR 11 Apr and four on the GBD. Horned Grebe: reported at all Mar seminars; one Elmira 15 May. Double-crested Cormorant: this species is becoming a regular summer resident at MNWR. Arrived 11 May, max 49 on 16 May. Great Blue Heron: small colony near Dundee; two nests at MNWR for the first breeding there in 40 years. Cattle Egret: one south of Penn Yan the only report. Great Egret: arr MNWR 9 May. SNOWY EGRET: one Elmira 6-10 May (WH); one MNWR 14-16 May (Menuhin, WB). Black-crowned Night Heron: one Branchport; at MNWR arr 29 Apr but are scarce. At MNWR they rest in cattails which are being lost. Least Bittern: one MNWR 11 May; one GBD; one Elmira 22 May. Am. Bittern: arr MNWR 15 Apr; two GBD; one Ow L 17 May; one Elmira 25 May. Whistling Swan: 31 on west side of Cay L 14 Mar; three MNWR 20 Mar; one on 5 Apr and five on 21 Apr at Phelps. Canada Goose: arr Elmira 10-13 Mar and at MNWR 13 Mar where the max was 60,000 on 14 Apr; two at Phelps 20 Apr with large white wingtips and partially white bodies. Brant: 12 MNWR and 52 Sen L on 16 May; also a flock at Slatteryville the same day. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: eight at Aurelius in northern Cay Co 2 Apr (V. Dewey). Snow Goose: arr MNWR 13 Mar; max there 6500 14 Apr.

Max waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Mallard	2,000	31 May	Redhead	65	22 Mar
Black Duck	300	30 Apr-14 May	Ring-necked Duck	75	22 Mar-15 Apr
Gadwall	1,000	30 Apr	Canvasback	65	15 Apr
Pintail	250	30 Apr	Greater Scaup	200	15 Apr
Green-winged Teal	500	15 Apr	Com. Goldeneye	40	22 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	700	30 Apr-31 May	Bufflehead	80	15 Apr
Am. Wigeon	300	31 May	Ruddy Duck	12	31 May
No. Shoveler	500	30 Apr	Hooded Merganser	85	22 Mar
Wood Duck	750	14 Apr	Com. Merganser	250	15 Apr

Gadwall: three Phelps 5 May; 25 GBD; normally not many found outside MNWR. EUROPEAN WIGEON: male MNWR 26 May (D & I Gaskin) seen by mob thru to the end of the period. BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: male Elmira 21 Mar (MW, mob)\*; female Ow L 5 Apr no details (SK). Oldsquaw: Cay L 14 Mar; nine MNWR 17 Apr; 10 Sen L 16 May. White-winged Scoter: Cay L 6 and 14 Mar; one Hammondsport and two Branchport, Keuka L 25 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: this now common scavenger was first reported north of MNWR 21 Mar; on 20 Apr two were observed near Phelps flying among 60 crows thru a woods apparently going to a roost. Goshawk: four reports from Tomp and Cay Cos. Red-tailed Hawk: nest with two young east of Phelps 16 May. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Sempronius 14 Mar (T. Riley *vide* SK); one S. Danby 14 Mar. Rough-legged Hawk: two dark and one light phase birds at Venice 3 Apr; one light phase King Ferry 12 Apr. GOLDEN EAGLE: one seen on a Cornell field ornithology class trip 17 Apr, no details. Bald Eagle: occasional sighting thru the period at MNWR—some of them of marked birds previously hacked there; one west shore Cay L 20 Mar; Ithaca 18 and 19 May; an adult at Michigan Hollow, Tomp Co. 13 and 16 May. Marsh Hawk: the number of reports received on this species seem to offer some hope for a slow recovery from its very low status. Osprey: the stub on which this bird has nested for the past two years at MNWR toppled over in high winds last fall. However, the pair returned this spring and are now nesting on another stub which may not be any more secure than the first, as they are stubs from trees killed forty years ago when the swamp was permanently flooded to form the Tschache Pool. Other sightings were at Elmira 11 May, Phelps 20 and 29 Apr and 6 May. Peregrine Falcon: no reports. MERLIN: one Tomp Co. (K. Confer). Ruffed Grouse: numbers holding at high levels. One heard drumming at Venice 3 May. Bobwhite: seldom found in the region—one was calling south of Breeseport 25 May. Ring-necked Pheasant: reports have increased slightly over the past year; 13 seen during the period in the Auburn area; ten on the GBD. Turkey: continues to increase and spread to the north into Yates, Ontario and Cayuga Co.



Virginia Rail: reported from MNWR 17 Apr, Michigan Hollow, Tomp Co. 12 and 16 May and Branchport 16 May. Sora: MNWR 17 Apr; Elmira 15 May; four Branchport 16 May; one Penn Yan 30 May. Com. Gallinule: very few reports. Am. Coot: 300 max MNWR Apr-May, otherwise few. Semipalmated Plover: three GBD; Elmira 23 May. Killdeer: not as plentiful as usual. Am. Golden Plover: one Cay Marsh 31 May (SK). Black-bellied Plover: no reports. Ruddy Turnstone: one Cay Marsh 31 May (SK)—unusual in the spring. Upland Sandpiper: reports from Elmira, Yates and Seneca Cos. White-rumped Sandpiper: four Elmira 15 May; three Sen Falls 16 May. **CURLEW SANDPIPER**: one south of Sen Falls 16 May (Confer, Gray, Rybczynski)\* report to NYSARC and seen again at the same place 18 May (WB)\* with a report to NYSARC. If accepted, this will be a first record for Region 3. The bird was nearly in breeding plumage. Dunlin: one bird only Sen Falls 18 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Sen Falls 18 May. No. Phalarope: three Potter 27 May. **GLAUCOUS GULL**: a second year bird at the south end of Cay L 6 Mar (Melin, Gooding) and another 28 Mar. **LAUGHING GULL**: one in full adult plumage on the river Elmira 24 May (D. Clements, mob). **ARCTIC TERN**: one MNWR 7 May (WB)\* report to NYSARC. Caspian Tern: six Elmira 11 Apr (WH). Black Tern: arr late and comparatively scarce.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: the first egg hatched in a nest at Etna 7 Apr one day short of the earliest record. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Owasco and Geneva. Black-billed Cuckoo: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Penn Yan and Geneva. Screech and Great Horned Owls: numerous widespread reports. Barred Owl: heard during the day Phelps 5 and 26 Apr; at two new locations Tomp Co; one Venice 1 May. Snowy Owl: one Fleming 7-9 Apr. Short-eared Owl: Sen Co 7 Mar; Tomp Co 13 Mar; Penn Yan thru Mar; six Dresden Apr. Whip-poor-will: one Elmira 26 Apr; one Penn Yan early May; Tomp Co one 14 May and one 16 May. Com. Nighthawk: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Auburn and Phelps. Belted Kingfisher: found nesting in a sandpit east of Phelps. Red-headed Woodpecker: from the number and distribution of the reports received, it appears that this bird may be increasing. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: none at Penn Yan but 12 at Venice 15 Apr and ten at Auburn 17 Apr.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: Great Crested Flycatcher: nesting in a bird box Venice. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Elmira 25 Apr. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Tomp Co 12 May; Elmira 15 May. Tree Swallow: a few early migrants along Cay L 20 Mar and at MNWR 24 Mar but did not arrive in numbers until mid-Apr. Cliff Swallow: two pairs nesting at Corning Community College; one pair nesting Penn Yan; arr 22 May (late) at their Freeville nesting site. **COMMON RAVEN**: one Elmira 16 Apr (Ostrander *vide* MW); **FISH CROW**: the small colony persists at Ithaca. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a good influx during May. Winter Wren: well-reported regionwide. Long-billed Marsh Wren: decreasing as the cattail marshes decrease. Short-billed Marsh Wren: no reports. Hermit Thrush: JC reports more males on territory in Tomp Co. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Ithaca 16 May; one Phelps 27 May. Veery: good flight Auburn 8-17 May. E. Bluebird: appears to be holding the increase of the past two years. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: seen building a nest east of Phelps 21 May. Kinglets: both species in low numbers. Water Pipit: max 110 Tomp Co 23 Apr. No. Shrike: one Danby 2 Mar. Loggerhead Shrike: one Freeville 7-8 Apr, no others.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: White-eyed Vireo: one Elmira 2 May and one Ithaca 10 May. All other vireos well reported. Warblers: a total of 32 species and two hybrids were found. Numbers were low. Species missed were Prothonotary, Orange-crowned, Yellow-throated and Kentucky. The Golden-winged is being supplanted by the Blue-winged, continuing the trend of the past several years. "Brewster's": Elmira 15 May, four in one spot all singing the Golden-winged song. "Lawrence's": three Tomp Co. Cerulean: one on 14 May and two on 21 May east of Phelps; one reported at 17 May seminar. Prairie: males on territory Tomp Co.; reported at Elmira and Penn Yan. **CONNECTICUT**: one Branchport 30 May (J. Kesselring). Hooded: males on territory in Tomp Co.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS**: **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: adult male at Ithaca feeder 6-7 May (J. Plunkett, mob). Orchard Oriole: one Myers Point, Cay L 16 May (Gard-

ner); two Sheldrake 30 May (M. Boynton). Evening Grosbeak: a big regionwide influx March-May; max 300 Danby 6 May. Purple Finch: good movement April-May. House Finch: the swelling tide of these birds rolls on and on. Pine Grosbeak: one on the EBD for the second time in 32 years; at the seminars it was last reported 5 Apr. Com. Redpoll: departed mostly in Mar. or Apr but stayed until mid-May at Sen Falls. Pine Siskin: a widespread influx lasted until late May. Unlike last year, trapped females showed no brood patches. Red Crossbill: two Elmira 11 Mar; Ithaca 12 Apr; Phelps 11 May; 15 GBD. White-winged Crossbill: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Penn Yan, Sen Falls, and Phelps, which had the latest bird on 16 May. Savannah Sparrow: a bird believed to be the dark northern form was south of Sen Falls 18 May (WB). It was the typical Savannah size, shape and markings but was much darker. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Ithaca 12 May; one Clifton Springs 16 May; EBD; very scarce at Penn Yan. Henslow's Sparrow: Ithaca 12 May; Pine City 31 May; Penn Yan very scarce. Vesper Sparrow: a few more reports than in recent years. Tree Sparrow: last bird sighted was at a feeder north of MNWR 30 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Horseheads 12 and 15 May; one Myers Point 15 May. Snow Bunting: large flock Phelps 2 Mar; "a few thousand" at King Ferry 6 Mar; 75 Sen Co 7 Mar; last birds Union Springs 12 Apr.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET T. MARSI

Region Four experienced a March of cold nights, cool days and a few severe weather changes. On the night of 10 March, after a week of tenacious winter, an abrupt south wind ushered in warm sunshine and premature dreams of spring. In the town of Union, a flock of 250 Snow Buntings and 200 Horned Larks, monitored all winter and seen on the tenth, departed for the north, leaving only four Horned Larks to be counted on 11 March (FL). On the 12th and 13th, throughout the area a steady stream of large flocks of geese was sufficiently spectacular to catch the attention of radio announcers and news reporters. A general thaw set in. Streams and rivers, overflowing their banks, created shallow sidewaters where dabbling ducks fed and divers rested. A return by the 15th to nighttime subfreezing temperatures and daytime thirties controlled the run-off, thus maintaining the expanded river condition for almost three weeks. River-watching became a popular lunchtime sport. Records of most ducks were good, but no Northern Shovelers were reported.

On the 25th, a Whip-poor-will, rare for this area, was heard in Vestal. "Just at dusk, the loud, tremulous 'whip-poor-will' call was iterated three or four times, followed by a pause of about five minutes. A second set of 'whip-poor-will' calls was followed by a similar pause. Finally a third set of calls and then no more. Apparently the bird, after resting here for the day, called prior to setting off on another leg of its nocturnal migration." (RM).

On the 27th, back to lower teen thermometer readings until the 31st, when a wild rainstorm with warm winds up to 45 mph moved us into April with 40° temperatures. A blustery west wind on 4 April once more reclaimed the land for winter. All still waters refroze and on 6 and 7 April the heaviest storm of the

season covered the area with what was registered officially as nine inches of snow, but which drifted deeply everywhere. Early returnees had severe going. On the fourth, thousands of Tree Swallows were seen from two Susquehanna River bridges six miles apart "scudding low over the rough waters, fighting the wind and dipping down into the racing current, possibly after some sort of insect hatch." (RM). An Endwell observer on the sixth watched 20 Tree Swallows hovering about one nest box (JK). Feeding station reports of Fox Sparrows proliferated.

Gradually, warm south winds displaced the cold. On 12 April one lucky observer, checking out a report that Goodyear Lake was open, was rewarded by spotting 18 Red-necked Grebes about 100 yards offshore. "Most, but not all, were in breeding plumage, the light effectively catching the contrast of black head, white throat and dark reddish neck." (MD). The remainder of April was cool with no showers but one big rainstorm.

Early May was a poet's dream of spring. A high pressure system refused to be dislodged for nearly three weeks. However, instead of producing spectacular waves of migrants, the ridge seemed to check the migration. Woodland warblers did not arrive in large numbers until the 12th and then, bunched together, rushed through and were on their hurried way by the 22nd. At a station in Vestal, over 100 Tennessee Warblers were banded between 17-22 May. This classic spring ended finally when a low from the west on the 22nd brought rain that lasted intermittently for the rest of the period.

Meanwhile, several rarities had shown up. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen by a Windsor farmwife atop the barn ridgepole (Mrs. WM). A Black-crowned Night Heron, absent here for many years, was observed in an Endwell swamp. At the very end of the period an Acadian Flycatcher was reported from the Preble Swamp with no details but a follow-up promised (DC, JH, JP). From Endwell came the sighting of a Henslow's Sparrow, borderline here between very uncommon and rare. Three Goshawks and seven Bald Eagles lent excitement to an otherwise late, slow hawk migration. No Red-shouldered Hawks were reported. A Fish Crow, having spent the spring in Vestal, left on 27 May (GK). Meanwhile feeder reports of Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks continued strong thru April. May reports of the latter two were frequent through mid-month, then dwindled out.

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Abbreviations: CCBC—Cortland Co. Bird Club; DBC—Delhi Bird Club; DOAS—Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society; NCBC—Naturalists Club of Broome Co.; OPM—Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford area; WPR—Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 12 reports; first 3 Apr, last 31 May; 11 Broome Co., one



OPM. Red-necked Grebe: one 30 Mar WPR; one 9 Apr WPR; 18 12 Apr Goodyear Lake (MD). Horned Grebe: 15 reports; first 21 Mar WPR, last eight 25 Apr WPR; two other Mar reports from Susquehanna River, Vestal; remainder were Apr reports, two Binghamton, two OPM. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 reports; first 21 Mar, Susquehanna R, Vestal, last two 17 Apr Chenango Forks, OPM; two other Mar reports Broome Co; five Apr reports, three Broome Co, two OPM. Great Blue Heron: many; first 21 Mar. Green Heron: nine reports; first 24 Apr DOAS; two others OPM, rest Broome Co. **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: one 13 May IBM Swamp, Endwell (JK). Am. Bittern: none. Whistling Swan: three mid-Mar, Cortland Co, one 29 Mar Chenango R. Binghamton (J & MD). Canada Goose: large flocks thru 12-13 Mar; after that reports sparse and scattered, mostly Mar and Apr; last 15 May. Black Duck: 16 reports scattered thru period; 12 Broome Co, one Cortland, three OPM. Gadwall: six reports 22 Mar-3 Apr, all Broome Co. Pintail: eight reports, first 20 Mar, last 27 Mar, all Broome Co. Green-winged Teal: eight reports; first 26 Mar, last 23 Apr; one Bainbridge, four OPM, three Broome Co. Blue-winged Teal: nine reports, first 5 Mar, last 17 Apr; seven Broome Co, two OPM. Am. Wigeon: six reports; first 19 Mar, last 31 Mar, all Broome Co. No. Shoveler: none. Wood Duck: 18 reports, first 1 Apr; eight Broome Co, one Cortland Co, eight OPM, one Otselec. Redhead: one 15 Mar Cannonsville (SD). Ring-necked Duck: 20 reports; first 18 Mar, last 17 Apr; one Bainbridge, 16 Broome Co, three OPM. Canvasback: five reports; first 18 Mar, last 26 Mar, all Broome Co. Greater Scaup: one report; 15 Mar Cannonsville. Lesser Scaup: six reports; first 10 Mar, last 15 May; all Broome Co, except last which was Cortland Co. Com. Goldeneye: 16 reports; first 3 Mar, last 14 Apr; 14 Broome Co, two OPM. Bufflehead: 17 reports; first 3 Mar, last 16 Apr, all Broome Co. Oldsquaw: one report of two birds, 26 Mar WPR (RM). Black Scoter: one report of three birds, 12 Apr Goodyear Lake (MD). Ruddy Duck: one report of one bird 22 Mar Susquehanna R, Vestal (HM). Hooded Merganser: 21 reports; first 20 Mar, last 14 Apr; 18 Broome Co, one Cannonsville, two OPM. Com. Merganser: 23 reports; first 3 Mar, last 10 May; 19 Broome Co, one Delhi, one E. Sidney Dam, one Otselec R, one Wellsbridge. Red-breasted Merganser: six reports; first 21 Mar, last 9 Apr; five Broome Co, one OPM.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture: very frequent; first 14 Mar, max 20, 15 Apr. Delaware Co (JL). **GOSHAWK**: one 25 Mar Norwich (JL); one 11 Apr Walton (SH); one 9 May Otselec, on nest (DM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 13 reports thru. Cooper's Hawk: 23 reports thru. Red-tailed Hawk: frequent thru. Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: 11 reports; first 15 Apr, 9 May confirmed nest Otselec (DM). Rough-legged Hawk: three reports; 7 Mar Vestal; 14 Mar OPM, 21 Mar Otselec. **BALD EAGLE**: six reports (seven birds); 18 Apr Apalachin (RH); 27 Apr Delhi (GD); 24 Apr Marathon (KB); 6 May 2 imm Vestal Center (FL, BB); 15 May Carr Hill, Cortland Co (J & RP); 27 May Cannonsville, imm (DOAS). Marsh Hawk: eight reports; first 23 Mar; one report Otselec R between 13 Apr and 2 May "seventeen separate sightings on 13 different days." (DM). Osprey: 20 reports; first 28 Mar, last 12 May. Am. Kestrel: very frequent. Ruffed Grouse: 15 reports thru. Bobwhite: one report, 16 May Delhi (SC). Ring-necked Pheasant: ten reports scattered thru period; eight Broome Co, one Cortland Co, one Hamden. Turkey: 12 reports; thru period; seven Broome Co, one Delancy, two Delhi, one Oneonta, one Pharsalia. Rails: none. Gallinules: none. Am. Coots: none. Semipalmated Plover: none. Killdeer: frequent 13 Mar thru. Am. Woodcock: 17 reports; first 20 Mar; nine Broome Co, eight Chenango Co. Com. Snipe: ten reports; first 28 Mar; five Broome Co, five OPM. **UPLAND SANDPIPER**: one report of four birds seen in a field in Cortlandville in the general area where they have been found for at least three years. Spotted Sandpiper: ten reports; first 17 Apr, scattered thru area, on a Vestal farm two birds have been sighted from 6 May thru. They appear to be nesting (GK). Solitary Sandpiper: nine reports, first 4 May, last 18 May; five Broome Co, four OPM. Greater Yellowlegs: five reports; first 24 Apr Hartwick, 27 Apr Milford; 8 May, 13 May, 16 May, all Broome Co. Lesser Yellowlegs: five reports; first 14 Apr WPR, all others May, last 16 May; two OPM, one Upper Lisle, one Vestal. Least Sandpiper: four reports; 4 May thru 18 May, all OPM (MD, KW). Herring Gull: 18 reports; first 1 Mar, last 1 May; mostly OPM and Broome Co, but one Cooperstown. Ring-billed Gull: 11 reports, first 19

Mar when over 100 were counted on the Susquehanna R near Owego; on 20 Mar an equally large number was observed on the Susquehanna R near Vestal; last date 16 May; seven reports Broome Co. one Cannonsville, one Cortland Co, one Otselec R. Bonaparte's Gull: only report 16 Apr Upper Lisle (A & MD). Com. Tern: none.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: eight reports, first 15 May, all Broome Co except one 22 May of two individuals Delhi (SC). This is a high count and may be related to the increase of Gypsy Moths in Southern Tier. Black-billed Cuckoo: 11 reports; first 15 May; eight Southern Tier (where Gypsy Moths are on the increase), one Delhi, one Guilford, one Norwich. Screech Owl: two reports, 11 Mar Otselec (DM); 24 May Chenango Forks (A & MD). Great Horned Owl: four reports thru. Barred Owl: three reports; 27 Apr OPM (MD, KW), 16 May N. Colesville, Chenango Co. (JS), 18 May Otselec (DM). **WHIP-POOR-WILL:** one report; 25 Mar Vestal (RM). Com. Nighthawk: eight reports, first 8 May; five Broome Co, one Cortland Co, two Norwich. Numbers were light in all reports. No birds reported from Otsego or Delaware Cos. These species should be watched. Chimney Swift: ten reports, first 3 May, Binghamton. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 13 reports; first 13 May, Cortland. Belted Kingfisher: 17 reports thru. Com. Flicker: 20 reports thru. Pileated Woodpecker: ten reports thru. Red-bellied Woodpecker: three reports, one Newark Valley, off and on all period (LD), one 26 May Lime Hollow Cortland in the morning (CN), one May 26 in afternoon Cortlandville about three miles distant from Lime Hollow (same bird?) (CN). Red-headed Woodpecker: two reports; two individuals 16 May, Cortland Co, no specific location (BM, BT); two individuals, 29 May Cortlandville (CN). This species unusual for this area in general but reported before from Cortland Co. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 17 reports, first (except for one which wintered here) 6 Apr; all areas.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: first 25 Apr. Great Crested Flycatcher: first 12 May. E. Phoebe: first 24 Mar. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** one report; 31 May Tinker Falls in n.e. Cortland Co. (DC, JH, JP), just south of Labrador Pond on east side of NY Route 91. Willow Flycatcher: two reports; 16 May, 19 May, both Broome Co. Alder Flycatcher: five reports; 15 May, 16 May, 19 May, all Broome Co; 22 May Pharsalia; 25 May Norwich. Traill's Flycatcher: one report: banded bird, Vestal, no song heard (HM). Least Flycatcher: first 1 May. E. Wood Pewee: first 27 Apr. Olive-sided Flycatcher: three reports, 18 May, 30 May, 31 May, all Norwich (JL). Horned Lark: two flocks of over 100 10 Mar; after that pairs. Tree Swallow: first 14 Mar. Bank Swallow: only two reports; 15 May, CCBC, 16 May BRNC. Rough-winged Swallow: six reports; first 28 Apr. Barn Swallow: first 31 Mar. Cliff Swallow: four reports: 24 Apr Otselec, 4 and 7 May OPM, 16 May BCNC. Purple Martin: five reports; 16 Apr Town of Union, 24 Apr Endwell, 5 May Endwell, 15 May CCBC, 16 May BCNC. **FISH CROW:** one report; one individual seen and heard all spring thru 27 May Vestal (GK). Tufted Titmouse: several Mar and Apr reports, only one May, 16 May BCNC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: eight reports; Delhi, OPM, Maryland, Broome Co. Brown Creeper: seven reports; three Broome Co, one each Cortland Co., Guilford, Middlefield, OPM. House Wren: first 22 Apr. Winter Wren: two reports; 7 May OPM (MD, KW), 15 May CCBC. Carolina Wren: three reports; 1 Apr, 17 Apr, 12 May, all Broome Co. Mockingbird: seven reports; Apalachin, Broome Co, Delhi, OPM, Middlefield. Gray Catbird: first 1 May. Brown Thrasher: first 22 Apr. Am. Robin: first probable migrant: 5 Mar. Wood Thrush: first 7 May. Hermit Thrush: four reports; 4 Apr Vestal, 7 May Vestal, 13 May OPM, 20 May Otselec. Swainson's Thrush: ten reports; first 8 May Chenango Forks, one Binghamton, one Maryland, three Norwich, four Vestal. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two 16 May, 18 May, banding station in Vestal, no other reports. Veery: first 27 Apr. E. Bluebird: 22 reports, many of nestings, first 14 Mar. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: five reports, first 27 Apr Preble, a pair, probably nesting, two Broome Co, one Cortland Co, one OPM. Golden-crowned Kinglet: eight reports, first 3 Mar, last 29 May; often in small bands of six or eight. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: first 15 Apr, last 22 May. Water Pipit: two reports; 18 Apr Valonia Springs (JS), 15 May CCBC. Cedar Waxwing: 12 reports, 2, 4 and 21 Apr, no others until 15 May, then only in small flocks.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: 13 reports, first 4 May, last 29 May, six



Broome Co, one Cortland Co, one Delhi, four OPM, one Pharsalia. Solitary Vireo: 19 reports thru region; first 19 Apr, last 22 May. Red-eyed Vireo: first 12 May. Philadelphia Vireo: three reports; 16 May BCNC, 19 and 20 May banding station Vestal. Warbling Vireo: 14 reports thru region; first 4 May. Black-and-white Warbler: 18 reports, first 1 May. Worm-eating Warbler: none. Golden-winged Warbler: 11 reports; first 6 May, 10 Broome Co, one Hartwick. "Brewster's" Warbler: three reports; first 14 May, two Broome Co, one Hartwick. Blue-winged Warbler: 23 reports, first 8 May, 17 Broome Co, four Chenango Co, one Cortland Co, one Hartwick. Tennessee Warbler: many reports, first 12 May, last 25 May, 102 banded at a Vestal banding station between 17 and 22 May; max 39 18 May (HM). Nashville Warbler: 17 reports, first 5 May, last 31 May. No. Parula: eight reports; first 1 May, last 29 May. Yellow Warbler: thru, Magnolia Warbler: 21 reports; first 10 May, last 31 May. Cape May Warbler: nine reports; first 7 May, last 18 May; 7 Broome Co, one Cortland Co, one Norwich. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 13 reports, first 7 May, last 25 May; all areas. Yellow-rumped Warbler: many reports, first 16 Apr, last 18 May, max 61 7 May OPM (MD, KW). Black-throated Green Warbler: many reports thru; first 6 May, max 12 15 May, Maryland (MD, KW). Blackburnian Warbler: 28 reports thru; first 7 May, last 29 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: many reports thru, first 7 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: first 12 May, Vestal, one 19 May Vestal and five 25 May Norwich, only reports. Blackpoll Warbler: 11 reports, first 14 May Norwich, all rest Broome Co, last 29 May. Prairie Warbler: ten reports, first 2 May; eight Broome Co, 2 Norwich. Ovenbird: thru; first 7 May. No. Waterthrush: 11 reports; first 7 May, last 22 May; eight Broome Co, one CCBC, one OPM, one Pharsalia. Louisiana Waterthrush: ten reports, first 28 Apr, five Broome Co, three Maryland, one OPM, one Otselic. Mourning Warbler: six reports, first 17 May, last 28 May; one Norwich, three Pharsalia, two Vestal. Com. Yellowthroat: thru, first 27 Apr. Yellow-breasted Chat: four reports, first 6 May, all Vestal. Wilson's Warbler: six reports, first 6 May, last 27 May; three Broome Co, one Norwich; one OPM, one Otselic. Canada Warbler: 15 reports; first 18 May, four Broome Co, two Norwich, eight OPM, one Pharsalia. Am. Redstart: thru, first 4 May.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** Bobolink: thru first 7 May. E. Meadowlark: thru, first 14 Mar. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one report, 13 May. Windsor: a farmwife, very familiar with Red-wings, "heard a different call," "looked on the ridgepole of one of the farm buildings, saw a blackbird with a yellow head." (Mrs. WM). Red-winged Blackbird: thru, first 2 Mar. No. Oriole: thru, first 1 May. Rusty Blackbird: one report, 18 Apr Milford (MD, KW). Com. Grackle: thru, first 1 Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: thru, first 9 Mar. Scarlet Tanager: thru, first 10 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: thru, first 7 May. Indigo Bunting: thru, first 8 May. Evening Grosbeak: many reports, off and on all Mar and Apr; 15 reports in May, some fair size, 30 7 May OPM; last 31 May, one bird Norwich (JL). Purple Finch: thru. House Finch: thru. Pine Grosbeak: seven reports, last 16 Mar Milford (MD). Com. Redpoll: many reports in Mar and Apr, one report of two birds 22 May Delhi (JD, DB). Hoary Redpoll: one 5 Mar Norwich; holdover from winter report. Pine Siskin: thru, large flocks all Mar and Apr, gradually decreasing in May, last one 31 May Endwell (FL). White-winged Crossbill: four reports, last 26 Apr Delhi (MC); one other Delhi, one Oneonta, one Vestal. Rufous-sided Towhee: thru, first 16 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: thru, first 26 Mar. Grasshopper Sparrow: four reports, two Apalachin (JS), one BCNC, one Vestal Center (SD). **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** 16 May Endwell (LB) only report. Vesper Sparrow: eight reports, first 20 Apr Delhi (MC), last 22 May Pharsalia (JL). Dark-eyed Junco: many, first probable migrants 13 Mar, peak 24 to 27 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: thru, first 9 Apr Delhi. Field Sparrow, thru; first 4 Apr, Norwich, Chenango Forks. White-crowned Sparrow: many, first 3 May, last 22 May. White-throated Sparrow: many all winter; probable first migrant flock 30 Mar Vestal (GK). Fox Sparrow: 24 reports, first 24 Mar, last 12, most of these feeding station reports between 4-11 Apr, a week of bitter cold and snow. Lincoln's Sparrow: three reports, one 16 May from a banding station in north-central Vestal (GK), two from a banding station in east Vestal (HM). Swamp Sparrow: 14 reports, first 24 Apr OPM. Song Sparrow: many all winter; first probable migrant flock 12 Mar Vestal (GK). Snow Bunting: last date 10 Mar.

Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, New York 13903

## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

Most observers felt that the 1982 Spring migration was eventful, though few great rarities were found. The season exhibited wildly variable though generally favorable weather, low total precipitation, and few strong southerly winds. March saw winter apparently end with seasonal temperatures but little precipitation by the end of the month. April was another matter, when 13 inches of snow at Syracuse by 8 April made this the snowiest April ever; the total winter snowfall was the seventh largest ever at Syracuse. Several observers noted local avian mortality during this period, especially of phoebes, robins and blackbirds, but no major kills took place nor were any major effects evident later in the season. May continued a trend of uniformly mild to warm, dry weather. Consequently there were few really strong migration days but also few days without at least a few migrants after mid-April. May ended overcast and wet.

Two events of the season carried over from the winter. Dorothy Crumb continued to band redpolls at her Pompey home during March and April, ending with a total of 1190 Common and seven Hoary Redpolls. In addition she saw at least five more Hoary Redpolls and at least one of the Common Redpolls banded exhibited characteristics of the subspecies *rostrata* and several appeared intermediate between Common and Hoary Redpolls which are known to hybridize. Another Hoary Redpoll visited Kate Coyle's feeder in East Syracuse 6 to 16 March. A total of about 20 individuals, varying well-described, were found this winter. Redpolls persisted longer this spring than ever before, providing our first May records from at least three localities, the last three in Pompey Center on 11 May.

The spring following a major flight of irruptive landbirds often has return flights of these species, especially along the shore of Lake Ontario. With one exception, this was NOT the case this spring. No Boreal Chickadees were found, Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in average numbers, and Pine Grosbeaks and both crossbills were scarce. However, Pine Siskins made a sudden large scale appearance after the early April snowfall and persisted through May, with nesting proven again this spring in the Syracuse area.

The waterfowl migration was entirely unimpressive. No large numbers were found anywhere (but see Red-necked Grebe for a one day only exception). Once again observation points along Lake Ontario were much disrupted by the salmon sports fishery after the harbors thawed. Shorebirds were found in meager numbers typical of most springs. The best find was a Wilson's Phalarope, and of the species semi-regular in spring, only Red Knot was missed this spring.

Landbird migrants showed very typical arrival and departure dates. Maxima were low to average. In most cases, it appears that it reflects the prolonged, sustained character of the migration rather than population trends. Winter Wrens, both kinglets, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows remain distressingly scarce. I have promoted Loggerhead Shrike to boldface status as of this report. A banding operation was again conducted on the Onondaga Audubon Society Noyes Sanctuary, with most effort on weekends in May, and was most successful. Nearly 1200 passerines were caught, and these data again provide our best insight to the

late spring migration. We can expect that a more comprehensive effort, extended well into June, will reveal how much remains to be learned of the late spring migration in central New York.

Rarities were dominated by southern species. Several Great and Cattle Egrets were found, along with record numbers of Snowy Egret, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating and Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole were found as well. A Thayer's Gull was found in the gull concentrations at Little Sodus Bay, but the rarity of the season was a singing male Connecticut Warbler (full details not yet available) in late May. A total of 234 species, one additional color morph, and one hybrid were reported this spring. In addition, a belated report of a Hawk-Owl from the town of Ohio, Oneida Co., in December 1981 was obtained by Dorothy Crumb; a photograph and documentation has been deposited with the New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter NYSARC).

Observers: Gerald Church, Kate Coyle, Dorothy Crumb, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Gene Huggins, Robert Long, George Maxwell, David Muir, Margaret S. Rusk, Gerald A. Smith, F. G. Scheider, Magdalena Stooks.

Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Oswego Co; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co; LSB—Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co; max—maximum; NPT—northern Pompey township, Onondaga Co; Onon—Onondaga; PSS—Peter Scott Swamp near Phoenix, Oswego Co; SRF—Seneca River Flats near Montezuma, Cayuga Co; Syr—Syracuse; StMC—St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onondaga Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr LSB 1 Apr, max 52 DH on 20 Apr, last there 30 May. Red-throated Loon: one DH on 26 Apr (GAS). Red-necked Grebe: arr and max 52 LSB on 11 Apr, new regional high count; seven Chittning Pond, Madison Co, 30 Apr (GH). Horned Grebe: max 16 LSB on 11 Apr, very low; last LOL on 24 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: max seven LSB on 8 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: arr LSB on 8 Apr, max 24 DH on 15 Apr. Great Blue Heron: arr 12 Mar Kirkville. Green Heron: arr 25 Apr Clay Marsh. Great Egret: one at Salmon River mouth on 6 May, one to three in Pennellville-PSS area 10-14 May. Snowy Egret: one to five in same area 6-13 May (FGS *et al.*) is a new regional high count. Cattle Egret: one near Pennellville on 18 Apr, two at PSS on 24 Apr. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 30 at Snake Swamp, Oswego Co, in mid-Apr, mostly second-year birds, is new regional high count; still no evidence of its breeding there. Whistling Swan: up to ten SRF 14-28 Mar, one DH on 24 Mar. Mute Swan: imm LSB 22-25 Apr. Canada Goose: max 21,000 SRF 13 Mar, max passing DH was 4,000 on 1 May. Snow Goose: about 50 reported 13 Mar-25 Apr, the two morphs about equal and closely comparable in dates. Black Duck: max 60 LSB on 30 Mar, very few after 1 May. Gadwall: max 24 SRF on 28 Mar. Pintail: arr 14 Mar SRF, max 400 there on 24 Mar, last 25 Apr at PSS. Green-winged Teal: arr 27 Mar Clay, max 35 PSS on 25 Apr. Blue-winged Teal: arr 28 Mar SRF, max 18 PSS on 25 Apr. Am. Wigeon: arr 13 Mar. SRF, max 40 there 28 Mar, last in n. Onon Co on 29 Apr. No. Shoveler: one to three per day 13 Mar (LSB) to 30 Mar (Pennellville). Wood Duck: arr SRF 13 Mar, max 18 DH on 10 Apr. Redhead: max 46 PSS on 18 Apr, last LSB on 11 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: arr 11 Mar Brewerton, max 110 PSS on 18 Apr, last Clay Marsh on 30 Apr. Canvasback: arr DH 11 Mar, max 295 SRF 24 Mar, last LSB on 11 Apr. Greater Scaup: max 250 LSB 14 Mar, very low, last n. Onon Co on 29 Apr. Lesser Scaup: max 250 LSB on 11 Apr. last n. Onon Co on 29 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: max 400 Brewerton on 3 Mar, last LSB on 25 Apr. Bufflehead: max 40 LSB on 28 Mar, last DH on 6 May. Oldsquaw: one on an urban Syr holding pond 26 Mar was an unexpected sight (GH); last DH 17 Apr. White-winged Scoter: last two LSB on 18 Apr. Surf Scoter: last 32 LSB on 11 Apr. Ruddy Duck: arr LSB on 11 Apr, max and last six Beaver Lake on 24 Apr. Hooded Merganser: max 28 DH on 10 Apr. Com. Merganser: last Onon Lake 29 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: max 1,000 LSB on 11 Apr, last DH on 6 May.



# HAWKS—ALCIDS: Derby Hill Raptor Count — Spring 1982

Species	arrival	max — date	last	*90% date range	total
Turkey Vulture	15 Mar	124 — 17 Apr	30 May	24 Mar - 7 May	1,169
Goshawk	18 Feb	15 — 24 Mar	30 May	6 Mar - 24 Apr	142
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18 Feb	1,670 — 17 Apr	1 Jun	6 Mar - 24 Apr	7,734
Cooper's Hawk	6 Mar	86 — 31 Mar	30 May	31 Mar - 15 May	624
Red-tailed Hawk	15 Feb	1,232 — 16 Apr	1 Jun	11 Mar - 6 May	8,132
Red-shouldered Hawk	6 Mar	227 — 18 Mar	11 May	15 Mar - 19 Apr	969
Broad-winged Hawk	12 Apr	6,159 — 7 May	1 Jun	17 Apr - 1 Jun	24,192
Rough-legged Hawk	18 Feb	79 — 16 Apr	30 May	15 Mar - 7 May	472
Golden Eagle	21 Mar	4 — 17 Apr	24 Apr		14
Bald Eagle	24 Mar	3 — 17 Apr	1 Jun		22
Marsh Hawk	1 Mar	146 — 13 Apr	1 Jun	20 Mar - 18 May	836
Osprey	3 Apr	35 — 7 May	1 Jun	15 Apr - 30 May	340
Peregrine Falcon	15 Apr	singles only	6 May		2
Merlin	13 Apr	4 — late Apr	14 May		17
American Kestrel	10 Mar	69 — 24 Mar	30 May	13 Mar - 2 May	540

Total (including 139 unidentified): 45,344

\*dates between which 90 percent of the total birds passed

Turkey: one much out of place at DH on 23 Apr (GAS). Virginia Rail: arr Fox Ridge on 25 Apr. Sora: arr Howland's Island on 29 Apr. Com. Gallinule: arr 27 Mar DH. Am. Coot: arr 11 Mar DH, last 25 Apr PSS. Semipalmated Plover: arr SP 6 May, max eight Pennellville on 14 May, last SP on 29 May. Killdeer: max 52 Clay Marsh 17 Mar. Black-bellied Plover: three or four singles 6 May (SP) to 23 May (Syr airport). Ruddy Turnstone: one Pennellville on 22 May. Am. Woodcock: arr Holland Patent 11 Mar. Com. Snipe: arr Clay 17 Mar, max 20 Pennellville 24 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr DH 10 Apr, generally scarce. Spotted Sandpiper: arr LSB 24 Apr. Solitary Sandpiper: arr LSB 24 Apr, max ten DH on 10 May, last there 16 May. Greater Yellowlegs: arr LSB 11 Apr, max 20 there 22-24 Apr, last Pennellville 16 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Bolivar 18 Apr, max 35 LSB 22 Apr, last Schroepel 30 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 14 Apr, max 40 there 22 Apr, last there 7 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: two SP on 30 May. Least Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 20 Apr, max 20 there early May, last there 23 May. Dunlin: arr Pennellville 20 Apr, max ten there 21 May, last SP 30 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: about ten in Pennellville area 14-25 May, one SP 29 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr five at Minoa 7 May (KC), record early, max and last 20 SP 29 May. Sanderling: single SP 29 May. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: male Pennellville 21 May (DWC, JH, J. Propst). Glaucous Gull: last Oswego 16 May. Iceland Gull: last SP 6 May. **THAYER'S GULL**: imm LSB on 28 Mar (FGS, NYSARC). Ring-billed Gull: max 6,000 SP on 6 May, very low. Bonaparte's Gull: arr LSB 8 Apr, max 12 DH on 18 Apr, last Onon L on 14 May. Com. Tern: arr SP 2 May, max only 19 at Oswego on 16 May, very low. Caspian Tern: one to two per day LOL 2-14 May. Black Tern: arr Pennellville 9 May.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr StMC 8 May. Long-eared Owl: one LSB 1 Apr, four banded Noyes Sanctuary in Mar-Apr. Saw-whet Owl: one found injured Oswego 14 Apr, rehabilitated and released, about 14 banded Noyes Sanctuary in Mar and Apr. Whip-poor-will: arr Snake Swamp and Syr on 6 May. Com. Nighthawk: arr DH 11 May. Chimney Swift: arr DH 25 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 10 May DH, max 14 there 29 May (late). Belted Kingfisher: arr 24 Mar DH. Com. Flicker: arr 28 Mar SRF, max 61 DH on 16 Apr is very low. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr 5 Apr Holland Patent. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants one to three per day 8 Apr-9 May.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS**: E. Kingbird: arr Onon Co 29 Apr. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Clay 4 May. E. Phoebe: arr DH 21 Mar. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two or three StMC 24-29 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr NPT 16 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr NPT 18 May. Least Flycatcher: arr StMC 30 Apr. E. Wood Pewee: arr StMC 14 May. Horned Lark: max

71 DH 3 Mar, last migrant there 14 Apr. Tree Swallow: arr DH 24 Apr, max 400 LOL on 6 May. Bank Swallow: arr DH 17 Apr, max 200 DH early May. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 17 Apr, max 17 LOL on 6 May. Barn Swallow: arr DH 15 Apr, max 300 there on 6 May. Cliff Swallow: arr DH 17 Apr. Purple Martin: arr DH on 15 Apr. Blue Jay: 10,800 passed DH 25 Apr to 31 May. Com. Crow: 37,600 passed DH 18 Feb to 26 Apr. Tufted Titmouse: only two reports this spring, surprising after last season's numbers. White-breasted Nuthatch: max 22 DH on 15 Apr. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one to five per day 2 Apr-14 May, surprisingly low. House Wren: arr Syr 25 Apr. Winter Wren: one to three per day 2 Apr-6 May, low. Carolina Wren: single report from DeWitt this spring. Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr PSS 13 Apr. Gray Catbird: arr StMC 2 May. Brown Thrasher: arr DH, Syr 20 Apr. Am. Robin: first migrants 11 Mar DH, Syr; max 2,200 DH on 21 Mar. Wood Thrush: arr StMC 4 May. Hermit Thrush: one to three per day 4 Apr-7 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr 6 May LOL, last Syr: 27 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two reported StMC 18 and 26 May. Veery: arr Syr 6 May. E. Bluebird: total of 71 passed DH 17 Mar-18 Apr, max 24 on 24 Mar. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 17 Apr DH. Golden-crowned Kinglet: to 24 per day 27 Mar-9 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: to 12 per day, very low, 17 Apr-14 May. Water Pipit: arr DH 15 Apr, max and last 30 LOL on 6 May. No. Shrike: last DH 29 Mar. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one in town of New Haven 14 Apr (JH), only report of a bird far more regular only ten years ago.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: White-eyed Vireo: singles StMC 12-13 May (FGS *et al.*) and Syr 13 May (MSR). Yellow-throated Vireo: arr StMC 4 May. Solitary Vireo: arr Syr 20 Apr. Red-eyed Vireo: arr StMC 7 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr StMC 13 May; about seven reported through 18 May. Warbling Vireo: arr 3 May Holland Patent. Black-and-white Warbler: arr StMC 2 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one StMC 14-16 May. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler: both arr Snake Swamp on 6 May, latter now very scarce south of Oneida Lake; two "Brewster's" Warblers reported in May. Tennessee Warbler: arr StMC 6 May, last there 29 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: four reported 17 Apr (Nine-mile Point) to 17 May (StMC), is a good local spring showing. Nashville Warbler: arr StMC 4 May, max 24 there 9 May, last there 29 May. No. Parula: arr StMC 7 May, last SP 14 May. Yellow Warbler: arr SP 2 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr StMC 7 May, last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Cape May Warbler: arr LOL 6 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 6 May (two sites), last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr PSS 10 Apr, max 2,200 DH on 6 May, last Noyes Sanctuary on 29 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 6 May LOL, last Noyes Sanctuary on 30 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Camillus 9 May. Blackburnian Warbler: arr LOL 6 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr StMC 7 May, last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr StMC 7 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr 18 May StMC. Pine Warbler: arr LOL 15 Apr. Prairie Warbler: female StMC 8-9 May, two or three males there 17-24 May. Palm Warbler: arr DH 1 May, max 12 LOL on 6 May, last DH on 16 May. Ovenbird: arr LOL 6 May. No. Waterthrush: arr Clay 29 Apr, last Noyes Sanctuary 30 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 19 Apr Pompey Center. Mourning Warbler: arr Mexico 21 May, max 16 Noyes Sanctuary 29 May. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: singing male heard by many, seen by J. Propst, JH at StMC on 25 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr 30 Apr Clay Marsh. Yellow-breasted Chat: one 8-10 May StMC, another NPT 19 May. Hooded Warbler: arr StMC 8 May, last Noyes Sanctuary on 29 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr StMC on 8 May, last 31 May Noyes Sanctuary. Canada Warbler: arr StMC 9 May, last Noyes Sanctuary 31 May. Am. Redstart: arr LOL on 6 May.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS**: Bobolink: arr 6 May LOL. E. Meadowlark: arr SRF 14 Mar, max 50 per day DH in late Mar is low. Red-winged Blackbird: max 2,000,000 in three hours passing DH on 20 Mar (GAS). No. Oriole: arr 6 May LOL, max 365 DH on 12 May. Orchard Oriole: male Minoa in May (*vide* KC), female DH 16 May (GAS), unusually far north. Rusty Blackbird: arr 11 Mar Baldwinville, max 300 LOL on 6 May, last LSB on 14 May. Com. Grackle: max 4,000 DH on 17 Apr, low. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1,000 DH 17 Apr. Scarlet Tanager: arr StMC 7 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Camillus 7 May. Indigo Bunting: arr 8 May Camillus. Evening Grosbeak: max 2,450 DH 6 May, last 30 May. Purple



Finch: arr DH 25 Mar. Pine Grosbeak: last four DH 16 Mar. Com. and **HOARY REDPOLL**: see introduction. Pine Siskin: arr about 10 Apr, then common but with much less display than in 1981 in Syr though nesting proven Syr and expected NPT; max 450 DH on 6 May. Red Crossbill: small flock Noyes Sanctuary on 30 Mar (DWC, PDeB), two near Georgetown, Madison Co, in mid-May (DWC). White-winged Crossbill: single DH 11 Mar, two at Coyle feeder in E. Syr 22-30 Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr DH 17 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: arr DH 10 Apr, late. Grasshopper Sparrow: only report Syr airport 13 May. Henslow's Sparrow: only report Clay 30 May. Vesper Sparrow: arr LSB 11 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: max only 45 LOL on 17 Apr. Tree Sparrow: last NPT 4 May. Chipping Sparrow: arr 18 Apr NPT. Field Sparrow: arr DeWitt 2 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: arr LOL on 6 Apr, last SP on 30 May. White-throated Sparrow: max 140 LOL on 6 May is low. Fox Sparrow: one to three per day 26 Mar-22 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: one to five per day 6-29 May. Swamp Sparrow: arr LSB on 11 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr LSB 14 Mar, max 140 n. Onon Co on 27 Mar. Lapland Longspur: two LSB on 11 Apr. Snow Bunting: last LSB on 13 Apr.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

In its vagaries, it was a typical North Country spring. March came in like a lion with a low temperature of  $-11^{\circ}$  F. on the 4th. However, with a sudden thaw just over a week later the mercury reached the monthly high of  $52^{\circ}$  F. on the 12th. Ice went out of local streams in mid-March. The heaviest precipitation (.63 in.) fell on the 25th, followed by strong winds and flurries. Total precipitation for the month was 2.46 in. April was certainly epitomized by the third stanza of Robert Frost's "Two Tramps in Mud Time." The month began cold with a low of  $6^{\circ}$  F. on the 7th and flurries Easter, followed abruptly by a high of  $74^{\circ}$  F. on the 16th. The remainder of the month was cool but not particularly wet. The maximum rainfall was .49 in. on the 3rd, and total precipitation was only 1.40 in. There was a skim of ice on puddles the last day or two of April. Early May continued cool with morning frosts; readings of  $31^{\circ}$  F. occurred the 5th, 10th, 11th, and 18th. The remainder of the month was glorious with a high of  $85^{\circ}$  F. the 7th, followed by the heaviest rainfall of .78 in. on 8 May. There was only a trace of rain from the 10th to 28th and total rainfall for May was 1.32 in.

Winter visitors such as Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes and superabundant Com. Redpolls and Snow Buntings lingered into March. The mid-month thaw ushered in the usual influx of early migrants—Am. Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Am. Kestrel, E. Phoebe, and Song Sparrow, of which the Am. Kestrel and E. Phoebe were ahead of schedule. But what a premium there must be on early access to territories and mates to brave the spring tempests! Our Song Sparrow was singing in early April at  $10^{\circ}$  F. and somehow the E. Phoebe survived—but how? Robins and blackbirds were moving in late March and early April, in spite of the weather. Evening and a few Pine Grosbeaks reappeared in March; and Pine Siskins, virtually absent for the winter, were seen from mid-April to mid-May. Evening Grosbeaks and Dark-eyed Juncos moved through Canton in mid-April. Our Tree Swallows arrived right on schedule with the spring peepers

14 April. The May migration of long distance insectivores seemed abbreviated and somewhat sparse.

Looking over the list, good numbers were reported for Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Marsh Hawk and Am. Kestrel. Large inland movements of Ring-billed Gulls suggest high breeding populations at Little Galloo Island and elsewhere. Goatsuckers, swifts and kingfishers seem stable or up a bit, as do bark gleaners and borers (woodpeckers, nuthatches, and creepers). House Wrens are even more abundant than last year, and Brown Thrashers are widespread. Kinglets appeared early and numbers are up. Pine Warblers appeared early in unprecedented numbers. Yellow Warbler remains our most abundant species, in spite of being in trouble elsewhere. Bobolink populations appear good, and E. Meadowlarks are up. Total species for the region was 178.

On the negative side, there were no grebes other than Pied-billed. Reports for Black Duck and shorebirds were scant; there were none for Red-shouldered Hawk, cuckoos, Screech Owl or Loggerhead Shrike. Status of Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows, Purple Martin and E. Phoebe bears watching. Bluebirds appear scattered and there were few reports of Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireo. Many warblers such as Black-throated Green and Cape May seemed down. Ovenbirds seem low, and there were few reports of grassland sparrows. There were no reports of boreal residents—three-toed woodpeckers, Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadees—though this may reflect the distribution of birders rather than birds.

In addition to the Hawk-Owl and Hoary Redpoll, the few rarities were a probable Merlin from Potsdam, three Common Ravens at the Howard's Spa in the center of Canton, and new records for House Finch in Lowville (Lewis County), Henderson, and Potsdam. Other sightings of interest include nesting Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Bohemian Waxwing and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Abbreviations: MSPS—Moses Saunders Power Dam; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area; ULLWMA—Upper and Lower Lakes, WMA (Canton); WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA (Massena).

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: pair ULLWMA 20 Apr; one ULLWMA 12 May; one Trout Lake, Edwards 16 May; pair Three Mile Pt. 31 May (R & JW). Pied-billed Grebe: arr ULLWMA 20 Apr. Great Blue Heron: arr Canton 25 Mar; 6 Potsdam 19 Apr (V & SDeG). Double-crested Cormorant: 15 Sawyers Bay 10 May. Green Heron: two Canton 2 May; two Potsdam 4 and 31 May (V & SDeG); first at Henderson 20 May (LC). Great Egret: one Mud Lake near Gouverneur 6 May (H. Kring). Am. Bittern: arr Potsdam 17 Apr (DM); two WHWMA 30 Apr; four ULLWMA 12 May. Mute Swan: one PRWMA 15 Apr to 16 May. Whistling Swan: arr and max 25 Lakeview Pond 13 Mar (D. MacIntosh); three-10 14-23 Mar near Perch River and Clayton (P. Townsend, L. Gunn); singles 24 Mar Henderson Pond (LC) and near Ellisburg (S. Stevens). Canada Goose: arr Henderson 13 Mar; max 12,000 Henderson Pond mid-Apr; flocks of 200-300 till 2 May (LC); 1,000 Richville Flats 31 Mar (JB); 20 MSPD 24 Mar (RC); 40 Potsdam 24 Mar (V & SDeG). Snow Goose: 200 Pillar Pt 6 Apr (L. Gunn); 36 including one blue morph Henderson Pond 13 Apr (S. Stevens); three

PRWMA 11 Apr. Am. Wigeon: 40 PRWMA 17 Apr; one PRWMA 25 May. Puddle ducks—Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal—arr in Richville (JB), PRWMA and Canton 31 Mar-2 Apr. Pintail: one RMPD 24 Mar (RC). Black Duck: ten RMPD 24 Mar; five PRWMA 4 Apr; one W. Stockholm 23 Apr; one (nesting?) Pierrepont 25 Apr; one ULLWMA 2 May. Gadwall: WHWMA 17 Apr (BC); one PRWMA 11 Apr. Green-winged Teal: two W. Stockholm 23 Apr (RC). No. Shoveler: one MSPD 24 Mar (RC); pair PRWMA 20 May. One WHWMA 17 Apr (BC). Wood Duck: three Richville 11 Apr; pairs Little River, Boyden Brook, ULLWMA Canton 2-4 May; Beaver Lake 8 May (M & EH). Redhead: Richville Flats 31 Mar (JB). Ring-necked Duck: Richville 31 Mar; five ULLWMA 20 Apr; five PRWMA 15 Apr. Greater Scaup: one WHWMA 30 Apr (RC). Am. Goldeneye: four MSPD 24 Mar (RC); pair S. Colton 24 Mar (JG). Hooded Merganser: one MSPD 24 Mar (RC). Com. Merganser: MSPD 24 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: two MSPD 24 Mar. Bufflehead: pair S. Colton 24 Mar (JG); one MSPD 24 Mar; three WHWMA 30 Apr (RC).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: arr Henderson 31 Mar; three WHWMA 17 Apr (BC); two W. Potsdam 18 Apr (DM); singles Canton 20 Apr, Edwards & Clare 24 Apr. Goshawk: at nest in Canton 4 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles in Canton, Pierrepont, Potsdam and W. Stockholm 10-23 Apr; one Henderson 7 May. Cooper's Hawk: two Canton 28 Mar; singles Canton, Pierrepont 15 Apr; Canton 6 and 11 May; Henderson 3 and 22 May; Barnes Corners 3 May. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers up in both Jefferson and St. Lawrence Cos; one on nest Theresa 11 Apr (KC). Broad-winged Hawk: first 1 May Canton; five 4 May Pierrepont. Few reports—small flight? Rough-legged Hawk: six Henderson area 10 Mar, decreasing thru Mar; one Potsdam 23 Mar; both dark and light phase Theresa 11 Apr. Osprey: one Stony Creek Henderson 15 Apr (NL); pair over Little River in Canton 16 Apr; one ULLWMA 20 Apr; one thru PRWMA (SB); one Potsdam 16 Apr; one W. Stockholm 23 Apr; (RC); one Canton 5 May (BC). **MERLIN:** one perched in yard near Potsdam 5 Apr (S & VDeG). Am. Kestrel: arr Canton 16 Mar; abundant throughout area. **BALD EAGLE:** pair nesting again in Jeff Co; two eaglets by mid-May (LC). Marsh Hawk: one 29 Mar thru (V & SDeG); pairs seen Potsdam 8 Apr Langdon Corners, Canton and ULLWMA 15 Apr; aerial courtship W. Pierrepont 24 Apr, and Pierrepont 4 May; numbers up (LC). Ruffed Grouse: clutch Canton 27 Apr. Am. Coot: three ULLWMA 20 Apr. Killdeer: arr Canton 20 Mar. Black-bellied Plover: one ElDorado 22 May (R & JW). Am. Woodcock: very abundant in Canton late Mar; arr Watertown 3 Mar. Com. Snipe: arr Canton 15 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: two Watertown (near Blake Sanctuary) 2 May (NL); none Canton-Pierrepont. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Canton 4 May. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Canton 14 May. Greater Yellowlegs: one PRWMA 16 May (R & JW). Dunlin: five ElDorado 22 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: four ElDorado 22 May (R & JW). Glaucous Gull: four MSPD 24 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: six MSPD 24 Mar; two WHWMA 30 Apr. Herring Gull: four MSPD 24 Mar; four W. Stockholm 23 Apr; many WHWMA 30 Apr. Ring-billed Gull: 25 Potsdam 26-28 Mar. Com. Tern: two WHWMA 30 Apr (RC); numbers up along Lake Ontario (LC). Black Tern: increased numbers at Lakeview WMA and PRWMA; feeding at Muskalonge Creek suggests breeding in Dexter Marsh-Black River Bay (LC); six to eight ULLWMA 12 May thru.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: abundant in St. Law Co; numbers up on Tug Hill Plateau (LC). Great Horned Owl: two Dry Hill 8 Mar (R & JW); two Madrid 22 Mar; singles Potsdam, Canton, Pierrepont 2 Mar, 14, 15, 26 Apr. Snowy Owl: two Evans Mills 16 Mar (SB). **HAWK-OWL:** one ULLWMA thru 15 Mar. Barred Owl: one captured pigeon in Village of Canton 5-6 Mar. Whip-poor-will: two Pierrepont 3 May; one Howardville Rd. (A. Rogerson) and Miner St. Rd (R. Taylor) Canton 3 May. Com. Nighthawk: one Watertown 17 May (N. Leone); center of Canton late May (JG); two Henderson 29 May. Chimney Swift: abundant Canton area 25 Apr thru; four Watertown 4 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Canton 13 May; one Potsdam 23 and 28 May. Belted Kingfisher: Canton and Potsdam 16 Apr thru. Com. Flicker: arr throughout region 15-16 Apr. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one or two males Henderson thru (LC). Red-headed Woodpecker: pair Brownville 28 May (SB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Pierrepont 17 Apr; pair Canton 26 Apr, court-ing 15 May (PVD).



**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: arr 7 May, abundant in area; incubating in Pierrepont 28 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Canton 7 May. E. Phoebe: arr Canton 25 Mar; incubating Pierrepont 19 May; usual numbers in Canton area; "only one during period—must be in serious trouble." (LC); one Watertown 14 Apr; two Potsdam 14 Apr. Least Flycatcher: abundant 11 May thru. E. Wood Pewee: arr late May. Horned Lark: very few after Mar (LC); one 20 May Canton. Tree Swallow: Richville 31 Mar—early (JB). Bank Swallow: arr Pierrepont dump 2 May. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Canton 14 May (BC). Barn Swallow: first Potsdam 16 Apr. Cliff Swallow: building nests 4 May Langdon Corners Canton. Purple Martin: four 30 Apr WHWMA (RC); nesting Canton area (M & EH). Blue Jay: moderate numbers reported (RC, S & VDeG, M & EH). **COM. RAVEN:** three Apr. Village of Canton (M & EH). Com. Crow: 25-50 Potsdam, Canton and Pierrepont thru Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: six-15 daily at feeders thru mid-Apr, then dispersal and pairing. Unbanded (migrant?) individuals appeared in mid-Apr. Tufted Titmouse: one previously banded at Henderson 11 Apr; pair 18 Apr second bird was banded, last seen 1 May (LC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: LC reports only one 1 May; four Canton 5 May (K. West). House Wren: abundant; arr Canton 29 Apr (JG). Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 17 Apr (LC); also reported from ULLWMA and WHWMA. Am. Robin: arr Madrid 13 Mar; 30 Potsdam 4 Apr (S & VDeG). Swainson's Thrush: one Thompson Park Watertown 29 May (R & JW). E. Bluebird: first two Dry Hill 25 Mar (R & JW); singles Potsdam 14 and 16 Apr, Pierrepont 14 Apr; three nesting pairs Pierrepont (M & EH). Veery: abundant mid-May thru. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first Canton 3 Mar (D. Newton); many sightings in mid-Apr; max 12 Canton 13-14 Apr (C. Balfanz). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Canton 10 Apr; two W. Stockholm 23 Apr (RC). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 20-30 Dry Hill 23 Mar (R & JW). Cedar Waxwing: 500 Dry Hill 21 Mar; appearing elsewhere in late May. No. Shrike: one Pierrepont thru Mar (KC); two ULLWMA thru Mar (PVD); one Evans Mills 6 Mar (SB); two ULLWMA 21 Apr—late!—seen through scope (KC).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: one Louisville 7 May (RC). Solitary Vireo: one Canton 7 May. Red-eyed Vireo: arr Canton 20 May. Warbling Vireo: arr early May. Arrival dates for all warblers reported (Canton unless otherwise noted) were as follows: Black-and-white: 7 May. Golden-winged: 14 May. Nashville: 6 May. Yellow: 6 May. Cape May: 12 May. Yellow-rumped: W. Stockholm 23 Apr; last flock ULLWMA 12 May. Chestnut-sided: 14 May. Bay-breasted: Louisville 7 May—early (RC); Canton 18 May. Blackpoll: 21 May. Pine: 17 Apr; three or four per day thru. Ovenbird: 7 May. No. Waterthrush: 4 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: two "on territory" Washington Park, Watertown 22 May (R & JW). Mourning: two "on territory" near Diamond 29 May (R & JW). Com. Yellowthroat: 11 May. Wilson's: Watertown 22 May (R & JW). Canada: 18 May. Am. Redstart: 11 May.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: arr early May. E. Meadowlark: five Louisville 7 May (RC); "numbers down" (LC). Red-winged Blackbird: arr Dry Hill 12 Mar; Canton 17 Mar. No. Oriole: males arr Henderson 7 May (LC). Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Canton 14 Mar; numbers back up after three-year low (LC). Scarlet Tanager: arr 16 May. Cardinal: well established in Canton and apparently Potsdam; nesting in Canton (M & EH). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Canton 12 May. Indigo Bunting: first ULLWMA 18 May (J. Winterbottom). Evening Grosbeak: five-15 thru Apr; gone by end of May. **HOUSE FINCH:** pair Lowville 27 Mar (S. Parker); pair Henderson 30 Mar, three more 11 Apr (LC); six Potsdam mid-Apr (N. Eldblom); one to two Potsdam 21 Apr thru 7 May (S & VDeG)—all new records; three Canton Apr and May; possibly nesting (M & EH). Purple Finch: increasing late Mar thru; numbers very high in Henderson (LC); three to four per day Potsdam 28 Apr thru; fledged young Canton 31 May (M & EH). Pine Grosbeak: 10 Potsdam 12 Mar (RC). **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Dry Hill 3, 21, 31 Mar (R & JW); one Potsdam 12 Mar (RC). Com. Redpoll: ten to 30 Potsdam 12 Mar-14 Apr; max 114 Canton in Apr (M & EH); last one Henderson 25 Apr (LC). Pine Siskin: 25 Canton in Apr (M & EH); max Henderson 20 per day mid-May (LC); ten ULLWMA 17 May. Am. Goldfinch: at feeders thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Canton 20 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: common 20 Apr thru. Vesper Sparrow: one Pierrepont 2 May (KC). Dark-eyed Junco: arr Canton 2 Apr; max in mid-Apr.

Tree Sparrow: last two Potsdam 25 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr Henderson 18 Apr; one Dry Hill 25 Apr, one Pierrepont 2 & 4 May. White-crowned Sparrow: first Henderson 6 May, max 30; also reported from Canton and Potsdam 8-23 May. White-throated Sparrow: arr Canton 2 Apr; max 10 Canton 20 Apr (M & EH), 20 Henderson 26 Apr (LC). Fox Sparrow: one at feeder Pierrepont 6-8 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr Canton 25 Mar. Snow Bunting: 20-30 Canton 1, 2, 4 May.

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## REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Spring came gradually to the North Country this year. The ice went out of Lower St. Regis Lake at Paul Smiths on 27 April. A few slow moving streams were open prior to that day, so waterfowl were concentrated and easy to locate. Fish Creek is one of these streams and it makes a nice though short early season canoe trip.

There was a good flow of land birds with many arriving rather early. Yellow-rumped Warblers were widely reported in April. This seems to have been the year of the Hoary Redpoll. Several authenticated reports were received.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Pairs of Com. Loons were seen on Upper St. Regis Lake, St. Regis Pond, and Madawaska Pond. MG saw a pair of Horned Grebes on the early date of 25 March but reports the species as scarce. A flock of 20 Double-crested Cormorants passed the hawk watchers at Belfrey Mountain 15 Apr. Several were seen in no. Clinton Co, later. The first Great Blue Herons were one 13 Apr at Witherbee and one 17 Apr at Tupper Marsh. The first Green Heron was seen in no. Clinton Co 29 Apr. A Cattle Egret was at Briar Swamp in Clinton Co 1 May (HB, RB). Two Great Egrets were at Chazy Landing 16 May (MG). Am. Bittern: one at Tupper Marsh, two at Ferd's Bog, and four near Paul Smiths. GLOSSY IBIS: seven Chazy Landing 4 May and one 18 May (MG). A lone Canada Goose landed on the only bit of open water in Clinton Co 13 Mar (MG). 19 of this species arrived at Tupper 26 Mar. Snow Goose: three at Tupper 18 Mar, 15 at Chazy Landing 25 Mar, 26 landed on the snow at Brandon Burn near Paul Smiths 1 Apr; five passed Westport 4 Apr. There were 16 species of waterfowl at Chazy Landing in late Apr. Seven Gadwall were seen here. The first Pintail arrived 25 Mar (MG) at Rouses Point. One was at Tupper 20 Apr. 70 Green-winged Teal were at Chazy Landing 30 Apr and several were seen in the Paul Smiths area. A pair of Blue-winged Teal was at Ferd's Bog 8 May, which is an unusual location (CS, FL). A pair is at Tupper Marsh. Two drake EUROPEAN WIGEONS spent at least a month near Chazy Landing after arriving 22 Apr (MG). The same observer notes good numbers of Am. Wigeons, No. Shovelers and Pintails thru the period. Five early No. Shovelers were at



Chazy Landing 25 Mar. Early Wood Ducks were two pairs 24 Mar and six pairs 30 Mar at Bulwagga Bay (GF). A drake sat on the electric fish barrier dam at Bay Pond and was killed when the power was turned on. A pair of Redheads was at Rouses Point (MG), only report for this species. The same observer reports good numbers of Canvasbacks, both scaups, and Ring-necked Ducks in early Apr. Eight Ring-necked Ducks were at Tupper 30 May (KM) and CD had 44 there 23 Apr. A late Lesser Scaup was at Chazy Landing 25 May (MG). Two nest boxes were in use by Com. Goldeneyes 26 May at Kings Bay (MG). The canoe area had several late May females. Two Buffleheads were at Tupper 14 Apr and nine on 24 Apr (CD). 150 White-winged Scoters were at Chazy Landing 16 & 18 May (MG). Three nest boxes at the Little Chazy River had Hooded Mergansers in residence in May (MG). This species was also seen late in May at Bear Pond, Little Long Pond, and Green Pond in the St. Regis Canoe area. One was at Ferd's Bog 8 May.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Quite a few Turkey Vultures were seen. Among the sightings was one 31 Mar and two 15 Apr at Tupper; two 11 Apr at Bay Pond; and two 8 May at Ferd's Bog. Two or three Goshawks were in the Paul Smiths area. There were 13 Sharp-shinned Hawks and eight Cooper's Hawks reported. A Cooper's was near Bear Pond 15 May (KC). 20 Red-tailed Hawks were seen. Four migrant Red-shouldered Hawks were tallied. Better yet is the increase in resident birds. One was at Madawaska 29 May and five were near Floodwood 30 May, including three together in a display flight (KM). The last Rough-legged Hawks were two passing Coot Hill 25 Apr. Golden Eagle: one feeding on a dead deer at Tupper (NYSDEC); one migrant 25 Apr Coot Hill (JP, EJ). A Bald Eagle spent two weeks at Tupper Marsh from 12 Mar (CD). MG reports good numbers of Marsh Hawks from the Champlain Valley. A pair is still near Bay Pond as of 29 May and at least one is at Tupper Marsh as of 22 May. Osprey: nest in Clinton Co is occupied, so is Bear Pond nest and nest at Deer River Flow. A bird was at Brown's Tract Ponds 9 May; four at Floodwood 30 May; other reports may have been migrants but there were at least 11 others. **GYRFALCON:** one gray phase, good details 1 Mar Moriah (GC); a dark phase 5 Mar Ticonderoga (DC). **Peregrine Falcon:** one 25 Apr Coot Hill (JP, EJ). **Merlin:** one Belfrey Mt 15 Apr (GC, EJ, JP, DT, JT, AT). There were a few Am. Kestrels. A pair of Ring-necked Pheasants was in Moody 29 May. Lake Alice had ten Semipalmated Plovers 17 May and Chazy Landing had 30 25 May, both (MG). Early Killdeer were: one Rouses Point 14 Mar; three Tupper 25 Mar; and one Bay Pond 1 Apr with all the snow. A single Black-bellied Plover, rare as a spring migrant, was at Lake Alice 17 May (MG). There were plenty of Am. Woodcocks. One arrived at Tupper 31 Mar. Six Com. Snipes were noted from Mountain View to Ferd's Bog. Maybe they will be more easily seen and heard for the next period. An Upland Sandpiper was at Cadyville 25 Apr (TO, LO). There were several Spotted Sandpipers and Solitary Sandpipers at Ferd's Bog, St. Regis Falls, and Paul Smiths. A **RED KNOT**, a new species for Clinton Co was at Chazy Landing 16 May (MG). It was with 65 Short-billed Dowitchers. MG also had, on 25 May at Chazy Landing, about 50 Least Sandpipers, ten Dunlins, and 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers. On 17 May he tallied about 100 of the latter at Lake Alice. Several pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls were nesting at Four Brothers. This spring, 15,033 Ring-billed Gull nests with an average of three eggs in each were counted at Four Brothers Islands. Two early Bonaparte's Gulls were at the mouth of the Saranac River 18 Apr (TO, LO). Early Com. Terns were at Chazy Landing 18 Apr. On 9 May this area had Com. Terns, four **CASPIAN TERNS** diving with swept-back wings, and also Black Terns (MG, TO). This is the first Clinton Co record for Caspian Tern. No Black Terns were seen at Tupper.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** There were good numbers of inland Mourning Doves but no cuckoos yet. The **HAWK-OWL** at Keene left about 20 Mar. Screech, Great Horned, Barred, Long-eared, and Saw-whet Owls were heard in Mar and Apr in the Champlain Valley. McColloms had two pairs of Great Horned Owls. Saw-whet seemed scarce with only one heard at Rainbow Lake and none at Paul Smiths. One was at Ferd's Bog 7 May. A pair of Short-eared Owls was at Chazy Landing 19 Mar-24 Apr (MG, TO, LO). Whip-poor-wills were at Malone and Brandon Burn. Com. Nighthawk: six Brandon Burn; a few Plattsburgh; several Tupper Lake. Ruby-throated Hummingbird is here in good numbers. A Red-headed

Woodpecker was at Ferd's Bog 8 May (FL, CS) and one was at Moriah 17 May (GC). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: two Ferd's Bog; one Floodwood; one Madawaska; four Onchiota; one Marion Carry; one Tahawus; one Highlands at Willsboro; four Mountain View. On 22 May Ferd's Bog had a No. Three-toed making a nest cavity (RK).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** There are a lot of Great Crested Flycatchers but few E. Phoebes. Throw those Brown-headed Cowbird eggs out of any Phoebe nest you find!! KM found single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Ferd's Bog, Madawaska and Onchiota as well as several Alder Flycatchers. There are plenty of Olive-sided Flycatchers. 17 Apr brought early Purple Martins to Cadyville and Ausable Point. CD found a Gray Jay at Madawaska 29 May and two at the Sabattis Road 31 May. Bay Pond had two in Apr. Active Com. Raven nests were at Blue Ledge, Tahawus, Avalanche Lake, and Cliff Mountain. CD saw a raven chase a coyote out on the ice one day at Tupper. Ravens were seen at three Clinton Co locations: Lyon Mountain, Silver Lake, and Ausable Delta. There were loads of Boreal Chickadees. One was banded on the late date of 13 May at the Crown Point area where a flock of this species appeared 18 May (JP *et al.*). The Cadyville Tufted Titmouse disappeared 20 Mar (TO, LO). There was a titmouse at a Tupper feeder and two at Crown Point. Brown Creeper numbers are high. There were a few House Wrens and a high count of Winter Wrens was 12 from Ferd's Bog to Brown's Tract Ponds. Ausable Delta had an early Long-billed Marsh Wren 8 May (MG). There were single Mockingbirds at Bloomingdale, Elizabethtown, and Crown Point where one was banded, as well as Tupper. There were three early migrant Am. Robins at Essex on 12 Mar (SC) and one at Tupper 13 Mar (CD). Wood, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes were in good numbers. Veerys seem a bit scarce. There were about 25 E. Bluebirds reported. Gabriels has a few and a snag at Roiley Pond near Upper St. Regis landing has a pair. JP notes three Blue-gray Gnatcatcher territories on Crown Point, and Ticonderoga Marsh had a pair on 22 May (RM, JP). Ruby-crowned Kinglets arrived at Elizabethtown 16 Apr and at Kings Bay 17 Apr. Over 40 Water Pipits were at Cadyville 8 May (TO, MG). There were many No. Shrike reports in Mar. MG found a Loggerhead Shrike 14 Apr in no. Clinton Co where he had one last year. EJ and JP had one at Westport 25 Apr.

**VIREOS-WARBLED:** GC found a Yellow-throated Vireo at Moriah 18 May. Lots of Solitary Vireos. CS and FL had 29 in two days, 8 and 9 May, at Ferd's Bog and Brown's Tract Ponds. Red-eyed Vireo was abundant. They don't seem to sing until close to June, while Solitaires start to sing in Apr. Lots of Black-and-white Warblers were present. A Golden-winged Warbler was at Lake Alice 16 May (MG). A "Lawrence's" Warbler was in Hamilton Co by the Kunjamuk 22 May (DCI, KS). A Tennessee Warbler was seen at Crown Point as a migrant (JP). Nashville and Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant. No. Parula numbers are high. They are common, as are Magnolia Warblers. A Cape May Warbler was at Onchiota 30 May (KM). They have bred there before. CSI had a flight of this species at Essex 16 May and a few were at Crown Point 22 May (RM, JP). There were three at Ferd's Bog 8 May and one at Ausable Point the same day. Bay-breasted Warbler was not mentioned. This was probably just not reported although they usually are scarce enough to be noteworthy. There were at least three Pine Warblers, usually scarce. A Prairie Warbler was at Crown Point on 9 May as were Palm Warblers, one of which JP banded. A Palm Warbler was at Ausable Point 1 May. There were a few No. Waterthrushes and DN had a singing Louisiana Waterthrush at Willsboro on 30 May. JP found one at Elizabethtown 29 Apr. Wilson's Warbler: one at Tupper 18 May (CD); one at Crown Point 22 May (RM, JP).

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** GC had an early male Bobolink on 4 May at Moriah. Early E. Meadowlarks were one 28 Mar at Tupper, one 29 Mar at Wadhams, and one 1 Apr at Bay Pond where there were a few later. There is no report of their status in the Champlain Valley for this spring. CD saw a female Red-winged Blackbird groom a female Brown-headed Cowbird. This was seen to occur with two different individual female Red-wings. Interspecific grooming is curious. No. Oriole: one at Tupper 10 May; one at Paul Smiths; four banded at Crown Point by JP. This is more of a Champlain Valley-St. Lawrence Valley species. There were Rusty Blackbirds in the canoe area and at Ferd's Bog. Indigo Buntings were

in good numbers near Mountain View and there were Purple Finches in abundance in the forest areas such as Paul Smiths. House Finch is being seen at Elizabethtown and Wadhams (GC, JP, DS). There were many late Pine Grosbeaks but the few at Essex 16 May were the last seen (CSI). CD has photos of this species feeding at a sunflower station. **HOARY RED-POLLS** were at feeders at Cadyville, Elizabethtown, Gabriels, Keene, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake. The great influx of Com. Redpolls lingered into May with the last individual being seen 10 May at Tupper (CD). 21 Pine Siskins were banded at Crown Point (JP). A few White-winged Crossbills were seen. The last was a single at Tupper 10 Apr. Red Crossbills were at Lewis 31 May (EJ, JP). Vesper Sparrow is in residence in good numbers at Bay Pond and was fairly widely reported. Field Sparrow reports are better than in the past. Fox Sparrow: one at Paradox 19 Apr (MB) and one at Tupper 20 Apr (CD). There were plenty of Lincoln's Sparrows. Two were banded at Crown Point. Seven were at Ferd's Bog 8 May and they were noted in many other localities. Four Lapland Longspurs and about 50 Snow Buntings passed thru Clinton Co 6 Mar (MG).

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Winter held a firm grip on Region 8 until 12 March when bright sunshine and warm air suddenly released the first flows of melting snow and spring migrants. 74 crows streamed past Columbia-Greene in blackbird formation that day and Killdeer returned to their breeding ground in Ghent on 13 March, exactly one month earlier than last year. Robins arrived in Schenectady en masse a few days later and by the 17th the annual endless procession of blackbirds could be viewed along the Hudson River at the Rip VanWinkle Bridge.

With a bleary-eyed inspection of the morning weather on 6 April one could have felt themselves to be taking the brunt of a belated April Fool's joke. But that was just the beginning of a storm of blizzard proportions that besieged our area for two days, dropped an average of 18 inches of snow, drove frenzied birds to feeders in desperation and littered the highways with those less fortunate. A month later heavy flights were noted with the hot weather of 11-13 May.

Highlights of the season include a Caspian Tern in Niskayuna, numbers of loons and grebes, Common Ravens nesting at Lake George, a resident Red-bellied Woodpecker at Ken Able's feeder, Prothonotary Warblers possibly breeding at Black Creek Marsh, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warbler reported, and Chimney Swifts returning on schedule to Lake Luzerne on 6 May for their annual welcoming celebration.

Among the 18 species reported only on the 15 May Century Run were White-rumped Sandpiper and Merlin. Upland Sandpiper and Worm-eating Warbler also made the list again, but among the missing were Short-billed Marsh Wren and Cerulean Warbler, so that the total count for the season was down from last year's 212 to 207. This report includes records from 12 groups, 11 from the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and one from Schoharie Co.



A Mourning Warbler banded by Bob Yunick at Vischer's Ferry and another banded by Dick Guthrie in New Baltimore both had an incomplete eye ring suggesting Macgillivray's Warbler. Both banders checked identification with wing measurements and were impressed by the persistence of this juvenal characteristic in an "after hatch year" bird. Banding activities have also indicated that House Finches may be decreasing in suburban areas while increasing in atypical habitat away from buildings. Banding records in this report are totals from Vischer's Ferry, Schenectady, Jenny Lake and New Baltimore.

The single Henslow's Sparrow found at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar on 1 May unfortunately did not stay. This possibly signals an end to this previously productive colony. Reproductive difficulty is also suspected when all of the male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks banded and sighted at Vischer's Ferry were adults with no second year males in evidence. Further, Osprey numbers were notably down on the Hudson River and the only Barn Owl reported was a bird found dead in a barn during the Century Run in Cossackie.

In keeping with past reports of trivia, we present the albino and celebrity birds of the season. The albino of the season is an Am. Robin who retained its red breast for an appearance in Tannersville in late May, while the celebrity of the season is a female Red-necked Grebe who had local news coverage after she was grounded at Schenectady on 4 March. She was banded on 9 March and subsequently flown to Long Island for release, to the amusement of local birders who expected to see this disgruntled bird wearily retracing her northward path.

In perhaps another dramatic demonstration of the incompatibility of human technology with wildlife, a Great Horned Owl was found in a state of self-inflicted crucifixion with wings outstretched and impaled on a barbed wire fence. According to Doug Bush of Catskill, who found and released the greatly weakened bird, it had hit the fence with enough force to spin the bird, thus wrapping the skin of the wings tightly around the wire. Apparently it isn't only the high towers that take a toll.

Good Birding, and may a Golden Plover plop into your clover.

Abbreviations: CR—Century Run 15 May, followed by a number indicating the number of groups reporting that species; HR—Hudson River between Albany and Hudson; NB—New Baltimore.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: CR three, one Hudson 12 Apr, 15 Saratoga 24 Apr. A flock of five Red-throated Loons at Saratoga L was found by three CR groups. Red-necked Grebe: CR one Saratoga, female Schenectady 4 Mar, two Saratoga 24 Apr. Horned Grebe: one HR 3 Apr, one NB in May. Pied-billed Grebe: CR one; HR 25 Mar, two Stony Creek Res 4-11 Apr, one Schoharie 11 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: CR two, Germantown 14-24 Apr. Great Blue Heron: CR six, seven reports max seven Schoharie 11 Apr. Green Heron: CR eight; seven reports, earliest Ghent 22 Apr. A CATTLE EGRET seen in Elmsere, Albany Co, among some dairy cows on 30 May is the first regional report since the fall of



1979. Black-crowned Night Heron: one NB early May. Am. Bittern: CR six, Canada Goose: CR nine; fledged young Manorton 10 May; 20 reports, max 200 Schoharie Apr. Brant: CR one, several flocks of 30 or more flew over NB especially at night in May. Snow Goose: 25 migrating over Schodack 3 Apr, two Saratoga 4 Apr, Hudson 25 Mar. Mallard: CR 12, two breeding pairs Jenny L, 30 reports max 400 HR 3 Apr. Black Duck: CR eight; 25 reports max 300 HR 3 Apr. Gadwall: two Coeymans 14 Mar, Stockport 27 Mar, two Watervliet Res 5 Apr. Pintail: nine reports, max 16 Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Green-winged Teal: CR one; ten reports, max 4 Mohawk R 28 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: CR three, nine reports, max eight Saratoga 24 Apr. Am. Wigeon: ten reports, max five Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Wood Duck: CR nine; 15 reports max ten Stony Creek Res 10 Apr. Redhead: Hudson 10-29 Mar, one Embough Bay 30 Mar, one Stuyvesant 3-26 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: 12 reports, max 66 HR 3 Apr. Canvasback: CR two; four reports max 81 HR 3 Apr. Greater Scaup: CR one at Embough Bay; nine reports, max ten Saratoga 24 Apr. Lesser Scaup: CR one at Niskayuna, Stuyvesant 10 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: CR one, 12 reports, max 14 HR 3 Apr. Bufflehead: 12 reports, max 25 Saratoga 24 Apr. White-winged Scoter: CR one, one NB 21 Mar. Hooded Merganser: 17 reports, max 12 Embough Bay 30 Mar. Com. Merganser: CR two; possibly nesting at Jenny L, 15 reports in Mar and Apr, max 40 NB. Red-breasted Merganser: CR one, one NB Mar, three Saratoga 24 Apr.

**HAWKS--ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: CR seven, 15 reports beginning with one at Chatham 20 Mar. Goshawk: CR one, one NB 20 Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: CR two; 11 individuals reported thru. Cooper's Hawk: CR two, eight individuals thru. Red-tailed Hawk: CR ten, 15 reports max, six HR 3 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: CR two. Broad-winged Hawk: CR three; courtship flight Jenny L 30 May; six reports. Rough-legged Hawk: four reports, latest Chatham 14 Apr (ET). Bald Eagle: Castleton 14 Apr (JC). Marsh Hawk: CR one, nine reports thru. Osprey: CR four, 11 reports, max eight NB late Apr. Ken Able saw the only Merlin for the period on 15 May. Am. Kestrel: CR 11, 16 reports thru. Ruffed Grouse: CR seven, 12 reports, max five Central Bridge May. Bobwhite: CR one; Castleton 30 Mar, one Glenville 12 Apr. Ring-necked Pheasant: CR three, 11 reports, numbers down in Hollowville according to one resident. Turkey: reported consistently in Columbia Co thru. Virginia Rail: CR eight. Sora: CR three. Com. Gallinule: CR four. Am. Coot: Hudson 18 Mar. Killdeer: CR ten, 18 reports, fledgling Charlton 20 May. Am. Woodcock: CR six, 15 reports, a display flight was observed by an evening biology class at Columbia-Greene on 12 Apr and a nest with four eggs was discovered by another class two days later. Com. Snipe: CR six, Castleton 26 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: CR three. Spotted Sandpiper: CR nine, several Schoharie in May, one Schodack 29 May. Solitary Sandpiper: CR six, Ghent 30 Apr, four Manorton 10 May, three Sharon 15 May for the CR. Greater Yellowlegs: CR two; four Embough Bay 17 Apr, two Manorton 10 May; two Seward 14 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: CR one; Castleton 26-29 Apr, four Manorton 10 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Castleton 2 Apr, Stockport 18 Mar. White-rumped Sandpiper: CR one. Least Sandpiper: CR five, ten Manorton 10 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR one. Great Black-backed Gull: CR six, ten reports, max 11 HR 3 Apr. Herring Gull: CR six, 15 reports, max 200 Duaneburg 20 Mar. Ring-billed Gull: CR seven, at least ten flocks of several hundred were found in fields and landfills in Columbia and Greene Cos in late Mar, max 500 Claverack 21 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: CR one, 45 Embough Bay 17 Apr, eight Saratoga 24 Apr. Com. Tern: one NB 10 May. **CASPIAN TERN:** one Niskayuna 14 May (RG). Black Tern: CR one.

**PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS:** Rock Dove: CR 11. Mourning Dove: CR 12, possibly breeding in atypical habitat, forest clearing 1250 feet Jenny L; banded three. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one NB 9 May. Black-billed Cuckoo: CR six, five reports, earliest NB 12 May. Screech Owl: CR five, two reports in Mar and two found dead on the highway Vischer's Ferry 12 Mar. and NB 11 Apr. Great Horned Owl: CR nine, two young Albany 13 May, eight reports thru. Barred Owl: CR three, Kinderhook 9 Mar. Whip-poor-will: CR two, two Albany 13 May, NB 15-30 May. Com. Nighthawk: CR three. Chimney Swift: CR 12, nine reports beginning Niskayuna 26 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: only a few at Jenny L in May, one Leeds late May. Belted Kingfisher: CR ten, nine reports beginning with two HR

3 Apr. Com. Flicker: CR ten, 16 reports, banded six. Pileated Woodpecker: CR nine, 12 reports, max two Saratoga 24 Apr. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Ken Able's feeder bird was tallied by two CR participants; Hudson 24 Mar-21 Apr (A & TB). Red-headed Woodpecker: CR three, five reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CR eight including one in Seward; Chatham 8-15 Apr, Albany 30 May. Hairy Woodpecker: CR 11, 11 reports, banded four. Downy Woodpecker: CR 11, 15 reports, banded three.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: CR 11, two reports in May. Great Crested Flycatcher: CR ten, three reports, max four Central Bridge May, banded one. E. Phoebe: CR one, 13 reports with at least three from Columbia Co in Mar. Willow Flycatcher: CR, one, one Schodack 29 May. Alder Flycatcher: CR three, banded three Traill's Flycatchers. Least Flycatcher: CR 12, four reports, banded seven. E. Wood Pewee: CR five, three reports, max three Schodack 29 May. Horned Lark: CR two, Ghent Mar, Castleton thru 13 Apr. Tree Swallow: CR 12, nesting Jenny L, 12 reports, earliest three HR 3 Apr. Bank Swallow: CR 12, active nesting colony found in sand quarry Livingston 10 May, seven Saratoga 24 Apr. Rough-winged Swallow: CR ten, seven reports beginning in Apr. Barn Swallow: CR 11, several Central Bridge 18 Apr. Cliff Swallow: CR three. Purple Martin: CR three. Blue Jay: CR 12, banded 24. Com. Raven: nesting at Tongue Mountain, Lake George (RG). Com. Crow: CR 12, max 74 Hudson 12 Mar. Fish Crow: two NB early May (RG). Black-capped Chickadee: CR 11, wintering Jenny L, numbers declined rapidly in Apr where 147 were banded over the winter, second only to last year's record invasion. A chickadee with a white crown and bill and reduced bib was seen in Greenville 5 May (RG). Tufted Titmouse: CR ten, 13 reports. White-breasted Nuthatch: CR 12, 15 reports, banded one. Red-breasted Nuthatch: CR six, did not invade for two years in a row as did the chickadees, banded eight. Brown Creeper: CR four, Castleton 29 Mar. Canaan 31 Mar, Spencertown 13 Apr. House Wren: CR 12, eight reports max four Central Bridge 28 Apr, banded three. Winter Wren: CR one, E. Poestenkill 2 May (AR). Long-billed Marsh Wren: CR six. Mockingbird: CR eight, ten reports. Gray Catbird: CR 12, banded 70. Brown Thrasher: CR ten, ten reports, earliest Hudson 6 Mar. Am. Robin: CR 12, major spring arrivals 15-30 Mar, banded 31. Wood Thrush: CR 12, singing in Blue Stores 10 May. Hermit Thrush: CR six, earliest one Central Bridge 14 Apr, banded one. Swainson's Thrush: CR four, banded eight in May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: CR one, banded two in May. Veery: CR ten, earliest one Hudson 3 May, banded 13. E. Bluebird: CR nine, 12 reports, max 15 Central Bridge Apr where visiting a nest box. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CR ten, six reports, earliest Embough Bay 17 Apr. max four Schodack 29 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: several Central Bridge 11 Apr, Hudson 11 Apr, Chatham 22 Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CR two, eight reports 17 Apr-15 May, banded two. A flock of about 100 Water Pipits was found in Coxsackie 15 May by Ken Able. At least one Bohemian Waxwing was in a flock of about 60 waxwings in Glenville 22 Apr (B. Havens *file* RY). Cedar Waxwing: CR three, three reports, max 15 Schodack 29 May. Starling: CR 12, banded five.

**VIREOS-WARBLED:** Yellow-throated Vireo: CR eight, three Schodack 29 May, Albany 30 May. Solitary Vireo: CR six, earliest Chatham 26 Apr, banded one. Red-eyed Vireo: CR ten, max four Schodack 29 May, banded one. Warbling Vireo: CR 12, one Albany 10 May, three Schodack 29 May, banded four. Black-and-white Warbler: CR six, two Central Bridge May, banded two. A male **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** was found singing at Black Creek Marsh 16 May by Scott Peters and the bird was found with a female on 30 May by Bob Budliger. Worm-eating Warbler: CR three. Golden-winged Warbler: CR seven, banded one. Blue-winged Warbler: CR nine, max five Central Bridge May; banded one. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Alcove Res. 30 May (NF); banded one NB. For the third year in a row "Lawrence's" Warbler appeared at Five Rivers in Delmar on 8 May. Tennessee Warbler: CR nine, banded eight. Nashville Warbler: CR six, banded six. No. Parula: CR three, banded three. Yellow Warbler: CR 12, earliest Ghent 30 Apr, banded 45. Magnolia Warbler: CR two, banded five. Cape May Warbler: CR six. Black-throated Blue Warbler: CR seven, one Troy 7 May, Albany 30 May, banded two. Yellow-rumped Warbler: CR 12, earli-

est Central Bridge 18 Apr, banded 56. Black-throated Green Warbler: CR eight, banded two. Blackburnian Warbler: CR four, singing male Hollowville 10 May, banded two. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CR ten, banded five. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Schenectady 25 May. Blackpoll Warbler: CR two, Albany 30 May, banded two. Pine Warbler: CR two. Prairie Warbler: CR seven. Palm Warbler: one Central Bridge May, Hudson 30 Apr. Ovenbird: CR 11, max three Central Bridge May, banded four. No. Waterthrush: CR eight, max four Engleville May, banded 21. Louisiana Waterthrush: CR eight, one Delmar 6 May. Mourning Warbler: banded two. Com. Yellowthroat: CR 12, earliest Livingston 10 May, banded 31. Wilson's Warbler: CR three, banded three. Canada Warbler: CR seven, banded 15. Am. Redstart: CR 11, four reports, max 20 Schodack 29 May, banded 23.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: CR 12. Bobolink: CR ten, two Catskill 7 May. E. Meadowlark: CR ten, 13 reports thru. Red-winged Blackbird: CR 12, major flight began 17 Mar, banded 17. Orchard Oriole: CR two, including three in Niskayuna, one NB 9 May. No. Oriole: CR 12, earliest Old Chatham 23 Apr (Ed Reilly), banded eight. Rusty Blackbird: two Schoharie 18 Apr, one Saratoga 24 Apr Ghent, 25-30 Apr, 15 Albany 5 May. Com. Grackle: CR 12, banded five. Brown-headed Cowbird: CR 12, banded 13. Scarlet Tanager: CR ten, two singing males Hollowville 10 May, two Seward May, banded one. Cardinal: CR 12, scarce in Schenectady, banded 12. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CR 11, max eight Schodack 29 May. Indigo Bunting: CR one, three reports including pair at Hollowville feeder 10 May, banded one. Evening Grosbeak: CR eight, 18 reports, returned to Jenny L in Apr, banded 269. Purple Finch: CR eight, 16 reports thru, banded 67. House Finch: CR 12, banding numbers down in Schenectady, banded 68. Pine Grosbeak: three reports from Columbia Co in Mar, Canaan 2-5 Apr (VA). The pair of Hoary Redpolls wintering at Scott Terrill's feeder in Altamont were still there 11 Apr. The Com. Redpoll flight was late, peaking 5-15 Apr, banded 796 in Apr. Pine Siskin: CR 11, 16 reports mostly in Apr, peak flight in Schenectady 6-15 May, banded 669. Am. Goldfinch: CR 12, poor winter showing in Schenectady, banded 128. Red Crossbill: CR one, one Niskayuna 7 Apr, 11 Delmar 1 May, two Schenectady 5 May, one 17 May. White-winged Crossbill: Troy 9-18 Mar (AR). Rufous-sided Towhee: CR 11, earliest three Central Bridge 28 Apr, banded five. Savannah Sparrow: CR eight, four reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: CR four. Henslow's Sparrow: CR two, one Delmar 1 May. Vesper Sparrow: CR four, six reports beginning Central Bridge 11 Apr, max seven Delmar 20 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: CR nine, returned to Jenny L 27 Mar and breeding in May, banded 100. Tree Sparrow: migrated through Jenny L 27 Mar-24 Apr, banded eight. Chipping Sparrow: CR nine, 12 reports, earliest Hudson 19 Mar, banded one. Field Sparrow: CR nine, eight reports, earliest Central Bridge 18 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: CR seven, three reports 10-16 May. White-throated Sparrow: CR ten, 13 reports thru. Fox Sparrow: ten reports, earliest one Schenectady 27 Mar, latest two Central Bridge 6 Apr, banded two. Lincoln's Sparrow: CR one, banded eight. Swamp Sparrow: CR ten, banded nine. Song Sparrow: CR 12, banded 32. Snow Bunting: Castleton and Ghent 1-20 Mar.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

## REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After one of the roughest winters on record, spring was more normal, March was cold, but normally so. Although the ice on the Hudson was quite thick, it



broke up in early February with flocks continuing through much of March. The numbers of waterfowl swimming about between the flocks in the Esopus Light area was truly extraordinary. Thousands of individuals of many species were observed there through much of March, including a beautiful drake Barrow's Goldeneye. April would have been a very normal month except for the blizzard of 6 April which dropped anywhere from eight to fifteen inches of snow, depending where you were. Temperatures dived into the twenties, and most migrants that had returned were hard put to survive. Robins especially seemed hard hit, with many foraging in the open roadways and being killed by cars. Feeders swarmed with northern finches, especially redpolls and siskins. There were two reports of grackles preying upon finches and killing them for food. Temperatures progressed about 10° F. per week thru April until the last week brought 70° F. weather. Foliage was early and showed little damage from last year's Gypsy Moths. The exceptions were White Pine and hemlock with many of the latter dying. Flowering shrubs and trees were in their glory, and seldom if ever looked better. But—where were the birds?

Birders waited and waited for the waves that never came. There were days when migrants were more numerous than others, but never the spectacular throngs that birders yearn for and have a right to expect in May. Several described the season as the "worst ever." Most said it was poor, and only two said it was "good" or "better than average." Conversations often gravitated to the species still unseen rather than finds recently made. None could venture a reason for the poor showing. Perhaps weather patterns to the south had some effect. Certainly we can't blame it on the Gypsy Moths of last year, although they did have a damaging effect on the seed and acorn crop. Perhaps the spraying of pesticides might have done some harm; but more of that was done this year than last, and much too late in the season to affect the migration. Precipitation was normal to better until the middle of May when the rains came. It rained at least a part of every weekend thru mid-June, keeping many birders at home.

As mentioned earlier, the waterfowl passage was good, but the hawk movement was poor. Flycatchers were generally late and in poor numbers. Swallows were more normal, but there are indications that the early migrant trees suffered from the blizzard of 6 April. Bluebirds also took quite a loss, with many young and adults killed and eggs frozen in the nest. Winter finches were about in good numbers early in the season, and were replaced by good numbers of migrant sparrows.

The bird of the season has to be a frigatebird (sp?) observed flying across the border from New Jersey into New York. The Common Eider, King Eider and European Wigeon are close runners up, and the Swainson's Warbler and Western Meadowlark could be candidates were their identification more tangible. Let's hope those who discovered them will submit verification reports to the NYSARC for a ruling.

Contributors and Observers: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Valerie Freer, Florence Germonds, Ken & Joan McDermott, Vaughn Morrison, Frank Murphy, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: Basha—Bashakill Swamp, Sull Co; CB—Cornwall Bay; KP—Kingston Point; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; PP—Piermont Pier; USMA—



U.S. Military Academy; WMC—Waterman May Census, Sull Co 15 May; the first four or five letters of each of the counties in the region.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Com. Loon: more than usual, all Apr, first three on Hudson at Esopus 3 Apr, max 40 Ashokan 13 Apr. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one winter-plumaged bird 22 Mar at CB. Horned Grebe: few reports, three Ashokan 23-25 Apr, one Basha 2 May. Double-crested Cormorant: max 13 PP 22 Apr were six days later than prev early date, reported from Esopus 15-16 May. A frigatebird of unknown species was obs at Northvale, NJ 7 Apr by Mr. Lee Bjong, flying northward into New York only a few yards away. Great Blue Heron: both heronries in Dutch unoccupied this year; a new breeding location in Basha where about ten active nests were observed. Fourteen nests near Jeffersonville in early Apr were also new. Cattle Egret: unreported for the last few years, one 17 Apr in Dutch. Great Egret: rare in spring, only one on WMC. Another at Kingston Pt the same date may well have been the same bird. Snowy Egret: five at PL 4 Apr were early, one at Croton Pt 10 and 27 May was more normal, one at Kingston Point 15 May. **LOUISIANA HERON:** one PL 8-13 May. Black-crowned Night Heron: one at West Haverstraw 27 May was an imm at the same location where a newly hatched one was observed in June of last year. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: one or two at MC in early Apr disappeared after the blizzard of 6 Apr and did not reappear until 29 Apr, only to find a pair of Great Horned Owls nesting near their traditional nest site. They did not nest this spring, and the small colony of the last few years may be lost. Am. Bittern: calling in Hackensack sw, West Nyack 14 and 31 May where they have not been heard since 1967. Regularly heard at Basha from mid-Apr. Glossy Ibis: more than usual, single birds at MC and PL thru Apr and May. Rock had its seventh record with one at Nyack 25 Apr and another was in Dutch 21-22 Apr. Mute Swan: numbers still good. Seventeen unmated birds were at Croton Point Bay in mid-May, and at least six more were at CB. Brant: returning to the good numbers of several years ago, heavy passage from most areas 18-26 May. One flock heard in the dark passing over Warren Sod Farm the night of 14 May. More than 300 settled on Ashokan 18 May. Snow Goose: a few scattered singles reported in mid-Apr, max 500 in a field near Pleasant Valley at 8:00 a.m. 31 Mar inc to more than 1000 by noon, inc were four blue morphs. All were gone by 2:30 p.m. Gadwall: sev remained on Rock L thru 12 May, sev reports of transients in Mar in Dutch and at CB. Pintail: more than usual. Two males and two females at CB 22 Mar, max at 6½ Station Rd. Goshen 28 Mar, two at Cruger's I 3 May. **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** a male at CB 21 Mar was a first for Oran and probably the region (KJM). Verification report submitted to NYSARC. Am. Wigeon: good passage, last 12 Apr in Dutch on the Hudson R. No. Shoveler: three CB 14 Mar and six on Rio Res 28 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: excellent numbers, last the late date of 8 May in Dutch. Canvasback: more than 1000 at KP 21 Mar, last at MC 11 Apr. Greater Scaup: more than 2,000 at PL in mid-Apr, last two at Cruger's I 13 May. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** a drake discovered on Hudson at Esopus 16 Mar by AB was still there 20 Mar, obs in both Dutch and Ulst Cos, a first record for Dutch. Oldsquaw: as many as 50 at PL 11 Apr, first Esopus 13 Mar. **COM. EIDER:** an ad drake and female off PL 21 and 27 May is the second West record, the first at Ossining in 1894. **KING EIDER:** a subadult male off PL and Rye Beach 13-26 May, is the first West record. White-winged Scoter: 20 on the east basin of Ashokan 25 Apr. Hooded Merganser: a record 300 on the Hudson from Wappingers to Esopus 15 Mar. We have just received word from Berna Weissman that Steve Buzzanco banded a female on eggs in a Wood Duck box at Basha the spring of 1980 and recaptured her again on eggs in 1981. Unfortunately he is not banding this year, but a female has been obs there thru the month of May. Com. Merganser: more than 500 from Wappingers to Esopus 15 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: a male with nine females on Orange L 8-9 Apr, and as many as five were at Esopus in mid-Mar. At least five more were at CB in mid-Mar.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Goshawk: only two reports. One thru Apr near Pound Ridge, and another near Oakland Valley 3 May. Cooper's Hawk: one found dead near Jeffersonville 13 Apr, another at Basha 15 May, and one on a nest at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, obs on

13-15 May. Red-tailed Hawk: exc numbers, many reports of nesting and related behavior. Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual, anywhere from two to four in each co. No evidence of breeding. Broad-winged Hawk: no peak movement reported, but numbers normal at end of period. Bald Eagle: more spring birds than usual. Several imm and ad working the ice floes in the mid-Hudson region thru Mar. Late info from DEC on winter numbers indicate 21 ad and 19 imm in the Sull Co Reservoir area. All were gone by the first week of Apr. Osprey: continues to improve, seen repeatedly thru the period in the Hackensack Swamp area of West Nyack and Blaauvelt where it has summered for years, but has not been known to breed. An exceptionally early bird was at Wappinger's Cr 15 Mar, a peak of nine at Basha 24 Apr. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: only report one male near Castle Pt. Hosp 30 Mar (VM). Am. Kestrel: almost everyone reports numbers lower, should be watched for change in status. Ruffed Grouse: numbers up, drumming along Mine Rd, USMA from mid-Apr. Turkey: continues to improve, now found regularly in the Ashokan area, and heard thru May along Mine Rd USMA. One male seen there 11 Apr. Clapper Rail: returned to marsh at MC by 29 Apr. Com. Gallinule: a pair at Hackensack sw. West Nyack obs 21 and 28 May. There are three or four breeding records for that location, but no evidence this year. First two at Basha 25 Mar, in exc numbers there by end of period. Semipalmated Plover: one at PP 14 and 25 May, only eight prev spring records for Rock. Ruddy Turnstone: Rock had its fourth spring record when five were at PP 25 May. Am. Woodcock: probably suffered from 6 Apr blizzard, but no evidence of that. Numbers seemed good thru May. Com. Snipe: max 25 at Millbrook School 17 Mar. Upland Sandpiper: rare in West. One at Pound Ridge 25 Apr. eight at Orange Co Airport near Montgomery 29 May, was a good count in a new location. Solitary Sandpiper: max more than 40 at a Wurtsboro chicken farm 15 May. Purple Sandpiper: about 21 were still at PL 14 May. Decreased to eight on 21 May with the last there 22 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: unusual in spring, one near Stone Ridge 17 May (Bob Terwilliger). Dunlin: seven at PP 24 May was Rock seventh spring record. Short-billed Dowitcher: Rock had its fourth spring record when a flock of 68 were obs at PP 24 May. Three still there 25 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two on WMC were the first since 1974. Gulls: it appears that Great Black-backed outnumber Herring in the lower Hudson Valley. The latter are actually hard to find at times, away from the dumps and landfills. Ring-billed Gull: the spring thaw brought more than 600 to feed on farm fields in central Orange Co 20 Mar. Laughing Gull: first two on Hudson above the Bronx on 4 May. Bonaparte's Gull: Bob Terwilliger had a max of 25 near Kingston Pt. Lighthouse 21 Apr. **CASPIAN TERN**: first report in years of one at PL 14 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: continues in exc numbers. Monk Parakeet: unreported for several years, three or four obs the second week of Apr along Rt 9W in Piermont (Mrs. Charles C. Windisch). Cuckoos: exc return after last year's feast of caterpillars, both species arr 7 May in Dutch. Yellow-billed obs on nest in Kingston 23 May. Great Horned Owl: two near New City fought off a pair of Red-tails for possession of nest in late Feb. Three grown young there by 25 Apr. Long-eared Owl: one apparently car-killed at PL 18 Apr. Saw-whet Owl: one 13-14 Mar Stonykill, Dutch was obs again 11 Apr (VM). **CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**: one calling at MC 25 May, the second West record, the first being at Port Chester 26 June 1963. Com. Nighthawk: numbers good, more than 250 over Mine Rd 16 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: unreported in Rock and uncommon elsewhere, max three Mine Rd USMA 31 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: numbers down in Rock from highs of six years ago in Rock, normal elsewhere. One being pursued by a Red-headed near Pine Bush 2 May. A male and female at a nest hole at Basha 15 May were displaced by starlings a week later.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: E. Phoebe: came in on time in mid-Mar and did not seem to suffer much from the 6 Apr blizzard. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 9 May near P'kpsie was early; three other Dutch reports by month's end. Acadian Flycatcher: three Dutch reports on 20 and 29 May were the only ones. Absent from usual locations at Basha and in the Catskills. Willow Flycatcher: quite late, in usual locations after 21 May. Alder

Flycatcher: only report one 30 May Basha. Least Flycatcher: one believed to be this species was found chasing a phoebe near Weyants Pond, USMA 17 Apr (EDT), very early. Good numbers passing thru after mid-May, but few remained at the end of the period. Tree Swallow: first 13 Mar at CB, never any large movement reported. 6 Apr storm may have harmed them. FG reports 75 of this species dead in nest boxes in early May. Barn Swallow: arr Dutch 21 Apr, normal. Cliff Swallow: several back at Cross River Res dam in late Apr, ten at Ashokan dividing weir 25 Apr and nesting there by 15 May. Purple Martin: colony at Excelsior Farm near Bullville seems to be driven out by House Sparrows. Blue Jay: low numbers of winter were inc by an exc migration, especially along the Hudson thru early May. Com. Crow: RFD had the unusual opportunity of watching a pair build on 2 Apr. Parents were feeding 29 Apr, and young were gone by 24 May. Fish Crow: up to ten at MC in mid-Apr and seven were at Vassar Col 29 Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: an unusual report of two pair nesting in bluebird houses in Dutch during May. Boreal Chickadee: only report of one in spruces near aerator at Ashokan 25 Apr. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers in Apr continued into May. One carrying nesting material into hole at Tallman Mt. Pk, Piermont 25 Apr, another nesting Ashokan 22 May. At least five reports from Dutch during May. Brown Creeper: more than usual, one obs building at Ashokan 25 Apr. House Wren: first Town of Newburgh 20 Apr. Carolina Wren: numbers down, very few reports and most of these along the Hudson. Mockingbird: 43 on WMC was below normal, first on that count in 1961. Am. Robin: first migrants 13 Mar, large flocks from 20 Mar thru 6 Apr blizzard played havoc with starvation and car-kills, as many searched for food along open roadways. Gray-cheeked Thrush: usual few all mid-May. E. Bluebird: nesting on trails by 6 Mar. Numbers were good but heavy loss of young after 6 Apr storm. FG hopes that numbers will be made up in second and third nestings. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr on time in exc numbers, reported everywhere from mid-Apr. Kinglets: numbers low, peaked at MC with six Golden-crowned and eight Ruby-crowned. No reports of nesting this spring. Water Pipit: only report seven at Ashokan 27 Mar, there must have been others. Cedar Waxwing: never common in spring, a few more this year than most. Nesting activity obs at Basha 22 May and in Bear Mt. Pk, 28 May. No. Shrike: none. Loggerhead Shrike: only report one Wana-sink L, Sull 6 Mar.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** White-eyed Vireo: a few more than usual, one very early on 20 Apr at West Haverstraw, one Mine Rd USMA 11 May was there thru period, four in Dutch from 9 May. Warbling Vireo: RFD reports the greatest number in 55 years of birding. On 27 May he had 20 Warbling and one Red-eyed in the West Haverstraw area. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** a beautiful male found by Mike Evanyke in mid-morning 25 Apr at Basha remained thru the day for many viewers; gone the next day. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** one in a small swamp atop Illinois Mt 15 May. Obs by Dave Deyo and Chris Davis. Location is in the Town of Lloyd, Ulst Co near Rt. 299, no details forthcoming—a first for the region. Golden-winged Warbler: numbers down, only two on WMC which averaged 15 during the 1960's. Blue-winged Warbler: first 26 Apr Verbank; numbers normal and seems to be replacing the Golden-winged in much of its territory. **"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER:** one Basha from 15 May. **"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER:** one Mine Rd from 8 May-8 June was in the company of a female Blue-winged which was carrying nesting material 15-16 May, no nest found. Another was at Rye Nature Center 11 May, and at the Meyer Preserve, Bedford, 14 May. Cape May Warbler: numbers much lower than most years, most birders saw one or two for the season. Yellow-rumped Warbler: first report 17 Apr along Mine Rd. USMA, hundreds there 1 May, scarce elsewhere. Cerulean Warbler: back in most of its regular haunts. Obs 13 May at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, a new location. Bay-breasted Warbler: also lower than most years, many birders missed it completely. Pine Warbler: obs nesting near Askokan 25 Apr. Prairie Warbler: obs in the Ashokan area by FM 17 Apr, early. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one male Basha 22 May. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** a female at Middletown Res 16 May (JT). Mourning Warbler: only one at Basha 22 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report one 15 May near Westbrookville. Hooded Warbler: only report



one on WMC. Wilson's Warbler: KM reports them as the only warbler in greater than usual numbers. He found as many as three at a time on each trip in May. Canada Warbler: numbers low except in the Peekamoose Mt. Rd. area where FM found them common, first Mine Rd USMA 8 May.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** Bobolink: in their usual places and numbers at the end of the period. Two pair at Rockland L 12 May inc to 150 the next day. A similar flock at Thiels a few hours later may well have been the same birds. E. Meadowlark: continues its low decline. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** a report of one at Stewart Airport 12 May, but no details—could be our third Orange record. Orchard Oriole: more than usual, at least seven in Dutch and 11 from Rock, three from Oran and one from Sull. Scarlet Tanager: numbers way down from recent years, late arriving. Indigo Bunting: usual locations and numbers, an extremely early bird was at a Rye feeder from 18-27 Apr. Purple Finch: continues to decline, now a hard bird to find in the wild. House Finch: too many, WMC had 143 with the first two birds appearing on that count in 1965. Pine Grosbeak: last in Dutch 6 Apr. **HOARY REDPOLL:** one occasionally turns up one if he looks at enough Commons. MVW had one of each at her feeder in Pleasant Valley 19-20 Mar, obs by many. Com. Redpoll: last at Pleasant Valley 11 Apr. Exc numbers thru Mar and at feeders dur and after the 6 Apr storm. Pine Siskin: exc numbers continued thru May, a few still around at the end of the period. Breeding should be looked for since it has occurred south of us on Staten I. Crossbills: both species well represented in Mar. More White-wings than Red, but the latter well-represented. Last report a flock of eight Reds in the Town of Ramapo 26 Mar. Savannah Sparrow: one Mine Rd USMA 25 Apr was an unusual location. Grasshopper Sparrow: sev reports at Galeville Airport, Wallkill. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** back at Galeville Airport this year. Three or four there thru June, and one reporter had as many as 15 birds. Dark-eyed Junco: last Mine Rd USMA 24 Apr. Tree Sparrow: left most areas by 17-19 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: the wintering bird at Vaughn Morrison's feeder in Wappingers Falls remained thru Mar. Spring arr in Dutch 7, 8 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: peak 13-14 May when six to eight birds were reported by sev birders independently. Last reports in Dutch 22, 24 May, WMC had 20. Lincoln's Sparrow: a few more than usual. First two birds on WMC, last one at Dunderberg Mt. 26 May. Snow Bunting: last 300 in Dutch 9 Mar, and 25 at Sull Co Comm Coll 12 Mar.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The season got off to a slow start, with eight out of the first ten days of March being colder than normal. The weather then heated up rapidly over the next few days with the warmest day of the month the 12th. This warm spell brought in many early migrants. Temperatures stayed above normal for most of the rest of the month except for a brief cold snap on the 27th and 28th, with the temperature dropping to 22° F. on 28 March, the coldest reading of the month. But this was just a taste of things to come. March closed warmer than normal with a monthly average less than a degree above normal. This warm spell spilled over into early April. On the 4th things started to get cold again and on the 6th the blizzard hit. Over nine and a half inches of snow fell in New York City and temperatures dropped to record lows. The daily mean for 7 April was



23° below normal. The temperature warmed up gradually over the next five days and the snow didn't last long. Most of the rest of April was above normal, so the monthly average temperature was less than a degree below normal. May was warm, the temperature averaging 1.8 degrees above normal. Rainfall was a little more than an inch below normal in March and May and a bit more than two inches above normal in April. So the season as a whole was a little on the plus side in rain.

There were small waves of early migrants accompanying warm spells on 12-14 March and 24-25 April, but much of May was disappointing. The banding station at Tobay experienced its only "wave day" on 16 May, with Common Yellowthroats predominating, but this wave wasn't much in evidence elsewhere. The banding station on Great Gull Island experienced a small wave on 30-31 May but nothing out of the ordinary was recorded. Staten Island picked up several nesting records: Red-tailed Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Pine Siskin—all found by one very diligent couple. In addition to the siskins, Red Crossbills also lingered on Long Island to nest.

Rarities, several lingering from the winter, were: Swallow-tailed Kite, Pileated Woodpecker, Varied Thrush, Swainson's Warbler and Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

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LOONS—DUCKS: There was at least a small flight of loons 15 May with six Common and two Red-throated Loons reported at JBWR (GD, MD, *et al.*) and a Red-throated in partial breeding plumage at Baiting Hollow, a first there (RA). The winter season reported no Red-necked Grebes, but at least four and possibly five were reported in Mar: one at Jones Inlet 6 Mar (R. Kelly, *et al.*, *fide* GD); two in winter plumage at Jerome Park Reservoir 15 Mar, one of those or a third bird in changing plumage there 21 Mar (WS); and one at the Marine Bridge at the mouth of Jamaica Bay 29 Mar (M. & A. Penzer, *fide* LS). Several movements of Gannets were noted from the south shore in early to mid-May; 40-50 were seen off Shinnecock 9 May and another 14 noted there 15 May (GSR); also on 15 May eight-12 off Cedar Beach (GD, MD, *et al.*) and three there the following day (JD, AS). Flocks of Double-crested Cormorants were noted flying eastward past Great Gull Island at the mouth of Long Island Sound on 24 Apr (JD). The earliest returning Great Egrets reported were three birds at the Goethal's Bridge Pond, SI, on 24 Mar (GB). A Cattle Egret seen flying north over the Hudson R. at Riverdale 5 May was a first record for one active observer in the area (WS). A warm spell 12-14 Mar brought the first Glossy Ibis: two were found at Goethal's Bridge Pond 13 Mar (GB) and others at JBWR 14 Mar (PWP), both dates near records. It is always interesting to note movements of birds that appear to be connected with weather patterns. In the spring we usually think of bird movements being related to warming temperatures, but the following two cases are just the reverse. On 23 May a total of 575 Brant were noted passing over Riverdale, in the Bronx (WS); 23 and 24 May average the two coldest days of the month with the daily average 12° below normal both days. On 27 Mar over 250 Snow Geese were noted passing over Riverdale (WS), as in the case above 27 and 28 Mar were among the coldest days of the month, the daily average 12° below normal on both days. Wood Ducks are never common on the outer beaches, but individuals were reported at Tobay 16 May and 30 May (AJL). A male "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was found at Hourglass Pond, SI, on 28 Mar (B. Schiefer, *fide* GB). A male Tufted Duck was reported at the Central Park Reservoir 5 Apr (D. Knowler, *fide* THD). A subadult male and

a female King Eider were found in a spring concentration of scoters off Great Gull Island on 25 Apr (JD); the eiders were seen intermittently there until 25 May (JD), the same day another subadult male was noted at Rye (T. W. Burke, *vide* THD). The previously mentioned concentration of scoters at Great Gull Island was approximately 15,000 birds on 25 Apr (JD); about 50% were White-wings, 40% Black and the remaining Surf. The concentration dwindled gradually to about 5000 birds on 19 May and 500 on 27 May (JD). Five male Harlequin Ducks were at Montauk 4 Apr (S. Terrill, *vide* THD).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture is usually an uncommon bird on LI, but five reports were received from Apr to mid-May: 1 Apr—Upton (W. Graves, *vide* GSR), 10 Apr—Mutton-town Res. (*vide* THD), 20 Apr and 15 May—Wading River (RA) and 13 May—Forest Park (GD). A **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** was reported over Pelham Bay Park on 26 May (P. Root, *vide* THD). Following scattered reports in the winter only one Goshawk was reported, at VanCortlandt Park on 2 Mar (WS). On 15 Apr a nesting pair of Red-tailed Hawks was found at Latourette Park, the first nesting record on SI (W. & N. Siebenheller, *vide* GB, THD). Three Merlins passed over Great Gull Island on 25 Apr (JD, *et al.*). The same warm spell that brought Glossy Ibis brought the first pair of Am. Oystercatchers to Shinnecock Inlet on 14 Mar (*vide* THD). Eight Semipalmated Plovers were found at the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station 20 Mar, a near record early date (GD, MD, *et al.*). A flock of 18 Willets was noted flying over JBWR on 29 May (THD). Four Upland Sandpipers were noted at Westhampton airfield 3 May (E. Salzman, *vide* GSR); others returned to their isolated breeding locality at Hofstra College 13 May (P. Gillen, *vide* THD). A pair of Ruffs, with the male in breeding plumage, was found at Oak Beach marsh 16 May (ROP, *et al.*). The May high count of Purple Sandpipers on Great Gull Island was 20 on 10 May (*vide* JD). A No. Phalarope was at JBWR on 30 May (*vide* THD). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were noted at JBWR during May: a male 13 May (GD) and a female 16 May (mob); another Wilson's was at Oak Beach marsh 23 May (ROP). A first-year Glaucous Gull was seen with Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls on the Hudson R., at Riverdale on 14 May (WS). An Iceland Gull was found at JBWR on 1 Apr (GSR). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are no longer found in mid-winter only, with single adults reported at Montauk Pt. 4 Apr (S. Terrill, *vide* THD) and Central Park Reservoir 10 Apr (PWP, *vide* THD). An adult Black-headed Gull was found at Jones Inlet on 10 Apr (D. Houle, *vide* THD). The first flock of Com. Terns (50) arrived at Great Gull Island on 25 Apr, the warmest day of the month (JD). A Caspian Tern was seen resting on grass with Herring Gulls at Miller Field, SI, on 23 May (H. Flamm, *vide* GB). A Razorbill was present at Montauk Pt. 14-21 Mar (G. Tudor, *et al.*).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Chuck-will's-widow: one was at Forest Park 1 May (GD) and one to two birds were reported intermittently at Manorville 7-23 May (GSR). A somewhat early Com. Nighthawk was found roosting alongside railroad tracks at Hither Hills on 24 Apr (GSR). A very early Chimney Swift was seen over Flagg Pk., SI, on 4 Apr (GB). The winter's **PILEATED WOODPECKER** lingered at Forest Park until 1 May (*vide* THD). What was probably the same bird was seen at Shu Swamp, Mill Neck, on 8 May (mob).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** The previously mentioned warm spell on 12-14 Mar brought many arriving E. Phoebes with it. Some of these birds, however, undoubtedly fell victim to the Apr blizzard. One observer reported that most nesting phoebes did not re-appear after the storm (GSR). The earliest reported Acadian Flycatcher was at Upton on 26 May (GSR). Three were banded on Great Gull Island on 30 May (JD). After the high counts of chickadees and titmice this winter, some spring return flight was to be expected, Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice were passing through Great Gull Island on 24-25 Apr (JD); titmice, particularly, are rare there. Black-caps were suspected of breeding at Tobay (AJL). An injured Red-breasted Nuthatch lingered at JBWR till 30 May (R. Kelly, *vide* THD). Am. Robins were noted moving through Riverdale 11 Apr, a few days after the blizzard (WS). The **VARIED THRUSH** on Orient noted in the winter report stayed until mid-Apr (GSR). An extremely early Gray-cheeked Thrush was found in Central Park on 25 Apr (J. Farrand, *vide* THD); another was banded at Tobay on 30 May where they are very

rare in the spring (AJL). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was found nesting at the High Rock Conservation Center on 17 May for a first SI nesting record (W. & N. Siebenheller, *vide* GB).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** At least seven Prothonotary Warblers were reported: one at Sands Pt on 1 May (*vide* THD); a pair at Wolfe's Pond Pt., SI, on 2 May (GB), another at Hempstead the same day (EL, *et al.*); one at Wading River on 15 May (RA, *et al.*) and two in South Hempstead on the very late date 28 May (EL). **SWAINSON'S WARBLER** is becoming an almost annual spring migrant in recent years. This year's bird was found at Wading River (J. Clinton, *vide* GSR, THD). A "Lawrence's" Warbler was in Stony Brook 20-23 May (GSR, RA). An Orange-crowned Warbler, always a rare spring migrant in this region, was found in Central Park on 25 Apr (PWP, *vide* THD). Two Yellow-throated Warblers were reported: 20 Apr at Wolfe's Pond Park, SI (W. & N. Siebenheller, *vide* GB), and 21 Apr at Millneck (D. Thompson, *vide* THD). A record early Blackpoll was found in Central Park 25 Apr (PWP, *vide* THD). There were widespread arrivals of Pine Warblers on 14 Mar, a date that has been mentioned several times previously for other species. Kentucky Warblers were reported at Alley Pond Park 11 May (GSR); and at Forest Park 13-15 May (mob) where they are regular each spring. A female was banded 16 May at Tobay, only the second ever there (AJL). A Mourning Warbler was at Forest Park 16 May (G. Tudor, *et al.*).

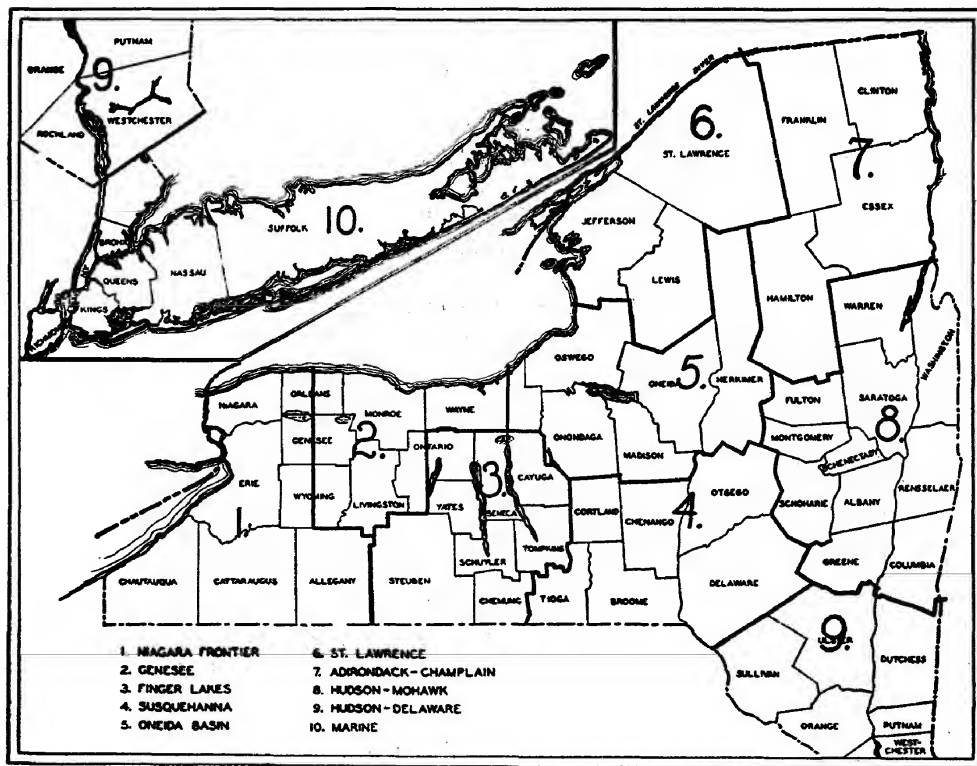
**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** There was a movement of Bobolinks through the region on the night of 15-16 May. Flocks were seen at Forest Park (JD, AS) and JBWR (M. Weinberger, *et al.*) on the morning of 16 May and a large flock in a buckwheat field in Patchogue 17 May (RA). A female Boat-tailed Grackle was found at VanCortlandt Park on 25 Mar for the first regional record off LI (WS). Only a few years ago any report of this species merited special notice. Summer Tanagers were widely reported, with at least seven individuals in New York City parks 25 Apr-26 May (*vide* THD). An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was with Evening Grosbeaks and a single Blue Grosbeak at Wading River Marsh on 25 Apr (RA). Four other Blue Grosbeaks were reported: a subadult male at JBWR on 18 Apr (mob) and presumably a different subadult male there on 3-5 May (P. Gillen, *vide* THD); a male in Prospect Park on 7 May (L. Cohen) and a bird of unreported sex at Heyerdahl's Hill, SI, in late May (W. & N. Siebenheller, *vide* GB). A few of the winter's Com. Redpolls lingered until early Apr: 15 at JBWR (THD) and three at Forest Park (GD), both on 10 Apr. Pine Siskins also lingered in the region, some til mid-May at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, Mutton-town Pres. and Kew Gardens (*vide* THD). On 25 Apr a nest was discovered at High Rock Conservation Center, for perhaps the first regional nesting record (W. & N. Siebenheller, *vide* GB). Another winter finch that stayed to nest this spring was Red Crossbill. Two pairs were observed building nests in mid-Apr at Connetquot River State Park, but both were apparently later abandoned (D. Houle, *vide* GSR). More successful, however, was a pair found building a nest at Manorville 12 Apr and possibly feeding young in mid-May (E. Schwarting, *vide* GSR). Another lingerer from the winter was the **HARRIS' SPARROW** at Gilgo, which remained until 10 Apr (*vide* THD).

**Corrections:** In the fall season report several of the totals listed for the Moses Mountain Hawk Watch were incorrect. The correct figures are: Sharp-shinned Hawk—2884 (not 56), Cooper's Hawk—56, Red-tailed Hawk—45 (not 2), and Red-shouldered Hawk—2. In addition, the Cerulean Warbler reported was found in VanCortlandt Park, not Central Park as listed. Finally, an unconfirmed report of a Baird's Sparrow on 13 Oct in VanCortlandt Park (details to NYSARC) was omitted.

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## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February  
 Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May  
 Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August  
 Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November  
 Deadline is December 7



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